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'Green Dolphinator' wins merit award at nat'l tilt. PAGE 3
SSHS' Kai Kai Company is NMI's first JA champ. PAGE 17

GOP pushes $33.7B food stamp cut

» Congress members ask USDA to probe fraud in CNMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) expressed dismay over the Republicans' push to cut national food stamp funding by $33.7 million over the next 10 years at a time when the CNMI is already getting much less compared to those states and territories that are under the national Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP.

Sablan

At the same time, members of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Nutrition and Horticulture asked the U.S. Department of Agriculture to investigate what Gov. Benigno R. Fitial reported as "fraud" involving the food stamp program in the CNMI.

Sablan said that Republican action on USDA programs "is consistent with their overall budget goals, which also aim to end the Medicare program our seniors depend on and to take away the tens of millions of new Medicaid dollars we won in the Affordable Care Act—

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RELATED NEWS

- 'Impressive entries' raise the bar in Bridge Capital's art contest. PAGE 9
- More photos on PAGE 14

Three male performers dance over a fire at the 31st Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival at the Susupe Beach Park last Saturday. Other photo shows tourists admiring the artwork submissions of the 3rd Annual CNMI Art Competition.
CLARISSA V. DAVID

31ST ANNUAL FLAME TREE ARTS FESTIVAL

Festival draws thousands of spectators, buyers

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Thousands of spectators trooped to the Civic Center Beach Park in Susupe over the weekend to take part in the celebration of island cultures and traditions at the 31st Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival.

The festivities had its soft opening Friday night amid the hot and humid climate throughout the three-day celebration, with 45 artists and seven food vendors as well as live entertainment from various performing groups, including the Saipan Awaodori Team, Glushko's Academy, the award-winning Umang Glee Club, and Off Limitz from Rota.

This year's celebration was dedicated to Mi' I Tekopua and William H. Kintz, who both "played

See FESTIVAL on Page 4

11 CNMI soldiers Afghanistan-bound

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Eleven soldiers from the CNMI are among the estimated 600 from the Guam Army National Guard that are scheduled for a one-year deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Lt. Col. Michael Tougher, commander of the 1-294th Infantry Regiment, said in a statement to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that at this point, "there are 11 of the 19 soldiers from the CNMI who are on the manning document for deployment."

The Guam Army National Guard received last week an alert order for its 1-294th Infantry Regiment and F Company, 29th Base Support Battalion for deployment to Afghanistan. The alert order is a major step in the process leading to mobilization.

Capt. Kenneth Ola, state public affairs officers for the Guam National Guard, said yesterday that the deploy-

See SOLDIERS on Page 4

ICS cuts commission, removes other fees

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The controversial contract of Idaho-based International Consulting Services LLC will soon be revised after the company's top executive agreed to reduce their commission and remove other fees, according to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta Saturday.

Babauta, and chief operating officer James Phillips, reported to the corporation board that ICS is willing to provide a flat rate of 11 percent for all the services it will render to the organization. Its top official, Louis Kraml, is set to fly this week to Saipan to present the company's plan for the corporation and seek an audience with the board in a closed-door meeting.

ICS was earlier approved a six-year contract with the

See ICS on Page 4

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POLL RESULTS

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Sunday, April 22, 2012

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LOCAL

The CNMI honors the late Marine Lance Corporal Ramon Taisakan Kaipat. ➤ PAGE 6

WORLD

Syrian troops storm and shell districts in a suburb of the capital Damascus. ➤ PAGE 19

LIFE & STYLE

A revealing new biography offers intimate details about Simon Cowell. ➤ PAGE 20

Local

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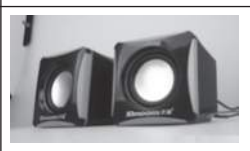
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CPA chief hosts fundraiser for Rota's Hocog-Santos tandem

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero hosted Saturday night a $200-per-ticket fundraiser for Rota senatorial and House member candidates Victor Hocog and Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), 17 days after Deleon Guerrero fired as CPA Rota manager the brother of Hocog's opponent, Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota).

» Over 2 weeks after firing brother of opposing candidate Manglona

Deleon Guerrero is the second vice chairman of the CNMI Republican Party that is currently chaired by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

Fitial, who has been publicly feuding with Manglona, attended the Hocog-Santos fundraiser, which Republicans said yesterday raised some $15,000.

The governor has been actively involved in the Hocog-Santos campaign, which is running against Manglona and his running mate, former Department of Public Safety-Rota resident director Felix Santos. The two Santoses are cousins.

Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan), former Public Works secretary Juan Reyes and former senator Joseph Mendiola were at the fundraiser.

Manglona, when asked for comment, said Deleon Guerrero's hosting of a fundraiser for Hocog, just over two weeks after firing his brother, long-time CPA Rota manager Thomas Manglona, raises suspicions on the nature of the termination.

"Here's a guy who said the termination was not politically motivated, but his decision to host a fundraiser at his house for a political candidate makes you suspect the motive. He terminated my brother whose contract was renewed only last month," he said.

The Senate president said, "It's very clear that the CPA executive director and the governor continue to play politics. And the governor continues to wear his political hat when we have all these crises in the CNMI."

Fitial, in a separate interview, said he will talk at a proper venue about his plans of action for the CNMI in the face of the NMI Retirement Fund's Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing and another state of emergency declaration for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

The governor said he extended the emergency declaration so he could continue to help CHC.

The executive order allows for both the reprogramming of funds to prevent a hospital shutdown and for the corporation to continue to contract with International Consulting Services LLC for medical billing services without going through standard procurement rules.

Fitial said Attorney General Edward Buckingham continues to review the ICS contract.

"I intend to continue the ICS contract but it will not be the way it was structured in the beginning. I don't want to discuss because the AG is still working on the details," he said.

Fitial has been planning to hold news briefings every Thursday.

Manglona and other lawmakers called on the governor to deliver a State of the Commonwealth Address so that the public would know his plans of action to stem the crises.

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‘Green Dolphinator’ wins merit award at nat’l competition

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Public School System’s entry to the national Real World Design Challenge—the “Green Dolphinator”—was bestowed the competition’s “Against All Odds” aviation merit award in recognition of the team’s hard work in overcoming a difficult situation while still making a respectable showing.

The competition took place last weekend in Washington D.C. and was the first time for the CNMI Team, which included Jill Ann Arada, Jonavelle Cuerdo, Clariza Magat, Marjorie Ann Cuerdo, and Eufemio Nino.

They received the recognition last Saturday with their mentor and teacher John Raulerson and Jeaniffer Cubangbang, PSS instructional technology program coordinator.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, in her message to the team, extended her congratulations, saying their latest honor is a significant achievement.

“On behalf of the PSS management, I extend our congratulations to our Marianas High School Aeronautic Dolphins on their recognition at the Real World Design Challenge competition,” Sablan said. “This award is another significant achievement of public education in our region and we are proud of our students.” Sablan also recognized the team’s mentor, Raulerson.

The “Green Dolphinator” emerged winner in both the state and regional design challenge early this year, giving them the right to represent the Pacific region in the prestigious event.

According to Cubangbang, 30 high school teams from across the nation competed in the event at the National 4-H Center in Washington D.C. All teams vied for 11 awards, including the Top 3 overall and eight meritorious awards.

“Judges were overly impressed that, [despite] the obstacles the CNMI team faced in their first year of the RWDC, they persevered and had the tenacity to submit an innovative solution and present this with confidence and enthusiasm,” said Cubangbang.

She quoted one judge as saying: “I am impressed with the CNMI. Competitively ready to roll despite having the disadvantage of traveling for 30 hours through 6,000 miles, presenting enthusiastically while their body clocks says it is midnight in their home town.”

The Top 3 overall winners in the national event were the teams from Arizona, Nevada, and Pennsylvania.

The Real World Design Challenge is an annual high school competition for all states and territories that aims to transform the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education in the U.S. by providing professional science and engineering and learning resources to students and teachers. The competitors’ main challenge is to develop an aircraft that could fly 200 miles in two hours. This was the first time PSS was invited to the event.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The “Green Dolphinator” team of Jill Ann Arada, Jonavelle Cuerdo, Clariza Magat, Marjorie Ann Cuerdo, and Eufemio Nino, are joined by mentor John Raulerson and program coordinator Jeaniffer Cubangbang before the start of the national Real World Design Challenge at the National 4-H Center in Washington D.C.

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Corporation board wants legal counsel Kearney ousted

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Members of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board expressed disappointment and frustration with their legal counsel, assistant attorney general James Kearney, and called Saturday for his immediate ouster from the board.

The full board unanimously voted to look for an independent legal counsel who they said can better represent the board and chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta in legal matters.

Kearney is from the Office of the Attorney General and has been working with the corporation since it took over last year.

Board members claimed that Kearney showed conflict of interest and gave defective advice that led to the current conflict with the Attorney General Edward Buckingham regarding the ICS contract.

Board member Anthony Aguon believes that due to this conflict of interest, the OAG-appointed counsel has put the board's decisions at risk. He even tossed the idea of filing an ethics complaint against Kearney, who did not show up at Saturday's meeting.

Board member Pedro Dela Cruz said the fiasco with the ICS contract may have been averted if Kearney had given the board proper advice.

"This fiasco about ICS really bothers me because during all our meetings, a representative from AG [James Kearney] was here. This problem we have [on ICS] could have been averted if proper advice was given to the board. We need to have a legal counsel that is answerable to the board and the CEO and not who represents the 'interests' of others," Dela Cruz told colleagues.

Corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that the decision to go ahead with sole-source contract with ICS was consulted and approved by Kearney, only to find out later from Attorney General Edward Buckingham that the contract is unlawful and violates CNMI procurement regulations.

Alvaro Santos, the corporation's chief financial officer, also sees the benefit to be derived if an independent or in-house counsel will be hired, citing the critical role that person will play in the organization's financial matters.

FESTIVAL

From Page 1

a significant role in ensuring that our cultural and artistic heritage is both strengthened and perpetuated."

Families of Tekopua and Kintz received their certificates of dedication during the opening ceremony held on the second day of the festival that was attended by island leaders, festival sponsors, and guests that included the Chuuk delegation led by Gov. Johnson Elimo and Lt. Gov. Wesley Simina.

In his remarks, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said that the Flame Tree Arts Festival is highlighted by the "artistry and craftsmanship" of local and international talents, participating delegations, and an array of festival food—making it an "annual celebration of local culture, family values, and tradition."

"While we gather here to celebrate artistry and craftsmanship, we also reaffirm our commitment to our cultural values and our traditional arts and crafts," said Fitial. "We showcase our identity as vibrant and gifted Pacific islanders."

For his part, Arts Council board chair Joseph M. Diaz urged the public to take pride in their culture, "regardless of your ethnic background," as it helps bring out the best in a person.

"Let us continue to perpetuate our forefathers' legacy that depicts our culture and history," Diaz said in his message read by vice chair Ana S. Teregeyo.

Saturday's ceremony also recognized the festival sponsors, each of whom received an island gift as a token of the Arts Council and festival committee's appreciation to their contribution for making the event possible. They are Bridge Capital LLC and Delta Air Lines for Pacifica category; IT&E, Docomo Pacific, Bank of Guam, and Marianas Visitors Authority for Micronesia category; and Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Coca Cola, and First Lady's Vision Foundation for Isla Category.

Also highlighting the program was the awarding of the winners of Bridge Capital's 3rd Annual CNMI Art Competition ***(See story on Page 9)***.

The three-day festival also featured performances from Rota's Trixters, Guam's Man Atungo, the award-winning groups Manta Ray Band and Marianas High School Chorale and Glee Club, Maikai, Uncle Ben's Music and Dance, Latte Vibe, Black Sands, Rose Dance School, Maluw Band, Afetnas Regime, and island performing groups such as Alan Ia, Pua Hinano, Tipiyeew Warriors, Te Ivi Mori, Island Warriors, and Inatua Dancers.

Food vendor booths were full of activity, with spectators grabbing a bite to eat or buying ice-cold thirst quenchers to beat the heat. Artists also reported brisk sales despite the general economic slowdown. Even tourists were seen having fun at the festival, taking the stage to sway to island and rock tunes.

Parker Yobei, overall chair of the festival committee, expressed his appreciation to the festival sponsors, volunteers, and the public for their "overwhelming support" in this year's festivities.

"We are very much delighted to have the entire community rally behind our call for them to 'Be A Part' in the Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival," Yobei told *Saipan Tribune*. "We hope to continue having their overwhelming support in the years to come as we promote, preserve, and perpetuate our island culture."

Touted as the premier arts festival in the Micronesia, the Flame Tree Arts Festival was celebrated last year in June due to the late blooming of the island's signature fiery orange trees after which the event was named.

Angel S. Hocog, executive director of the Arts Council that organized the event, said they decided to move it back to April since the community has been used to this schedule, also moving back the venue to its original home where festival goers can revel in the celebration

SOLDIERS

From Page 1

ment is normally for about a year. That includes about three months of mobilization, such as taking care of training, administrative and logistics requirements, and about nine months in country, he said.

"The deployment of over 600 soldiers from the Guam Army National Guard will be the largest group of reserve component troops from Guam to mobilize and deploy," Ola added.

The battalion is anticipated to mobilize sometime early next year.

They have been conducting individual training requirements and will be moving into their collective training phase when they conduct their annual training exercise in May.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), who deployed to the Middle East as a member of the 442nd Division of the U.S. Army Reserve's 100th Infantry Battalion, said yesterday he's always thankful for those who "volunteer to serve our country and put their lives on the line to protect our freedom and to those they must protect."

"I will pray for them and their families as they go through this period of separation to serve and defend against this war on terrorism," he said.

Maj. Gen. Benny M. Paulino, adjutant general for the Guam National Guard, earlier said the alert order "provides us the impetus to refine our plans for preparing our soldiers, along with their families and their employers, the opportunity to reorganize their private lives for this upcoming deployment."

Last week's alert order came at a time as a 22-year-old CNMI son who was killed on combat patrol in the Helmand Province in Afghanistan was about to be laid to rest during the weekend in Tacoma, Washington.

Marine Lance Corporal Ramon Taisakan Kaipat's death brings to 16 the number of CNMI sons and daughters who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the wars against terror since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

ICS

From Page 1

corporation, paid on commission at a rate of 11 percent in first three years and 11.5 percent in the last three. This is on top of other fees such as 5 percent of billed charges for accounts that are deemed uncollectible because of erroneous information from the corporation will be reimbursed to contractor and $95 per hour rate of service when ICS performs management, bookkeeping and accounting works, among others.

Saipan Tribune learned that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, during his 7am meeting Thursday with Babauta, had expressed concerns with the original contract, particularly the commission rate, describing 11 percent as "too high" and not "within industry standards." The governor had also raised the need for the attorney general's signature on the contract.

Babauta said he immediately conveyed all these concerns to Kraml, who affirmed the company's commitment to help turn around the public hospital.

In his letter to Babauta, the ICS official reiterated that the company will continue what it has been doing and will not only meet but will exceed the expectations of the corporation for the hospital to succeed. Kraml also promised to provide additional help in providing high quality physicians if the corporation needs it.

"We have the best of intentions and we will not abandon but will continue to help CHC," Kraml said, confirming his upcoming trip to Saipan.

Babauta described Kraml's commitment as a positive thing for the corporation, which is convinced that ICS will help CHC in its mission to keep the hospital open.

Babauta said the company offers "much more than billing and collection services." More importantly, he said, it will fix the hospital's broken financial system, which is key to realizing the desired revenues. He described the existing collections and revenues generated by the hospital as only a "scratch on the surface."

Last Friday, the governor declared a new state of emergency for the hospital to allow the corporation to address issues with the billing service provider. Babauta said that throughout this 30-day declaration, new documents will be routed—this time with the AG's signature—and with the revised service fees with ICS.

Board members voted Saturday to keep the ICS contract.

Babauta explained that he went ahead and processed the ICS contract with the best intentions, mainly due to urgency of the crisis at the hospital and in consultation with assistant attorney general James Kearney.

"We're sinking deeper and deeper. And I have to act, but is not a unilateral act because I consulted with the board chairman and members and our legal counsel. We did it in the open and with the best intentions," he added.

GOP

From Page 1

grant funds that the Commonwealth Health Corporation is counting on to pay staff and provide services."

Sablan is an independent aligning himself with the Democrats in Congress.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, chairman of the CNMI Republican Party and wants strong ties with Republicans in Congress, said he is strongly opposed to bringing the CNMI under SNAP because the Commonwealth has to shoulder 50 percent of the administrative cost.

But Sablan said spending $600,000 to $700,000 annually would more than be covered by an increase in food stamp benefits by $12 million to $24 million and the additional $20 million or more in multiplier effect.

Republicans pushed the Agricultural Reconciliation Act of 2012 through the Agriculture Committee last week. This is the same funding source for the CNMI food stamp program and the Women, Infants, and Children nutritional assistance program, also known as WIC.

"To cut SNAP now, while families in this country are still struggling out of the worst economic situation since the Great Depression, betrays a lack of understanding of how this program is designed to respond to economic conditions. SNAP is supposed to grow when times are tough. It provides a safety net. And as conditions improve, which they are now doing, the demand for food assistance will recede and the cost of SNAP will naturally be reduced. But to cut the program arbitrarily, without reference to its purpose or to the continuing need, makes no sense," Sablan said in a statement he submitted for congressional record.

However, Sablan reiterated that the CNMI has yet to get access to SNAP.

The CNMI receives a block grant that is supposed to be the equivalent of SNAP, but only provides half the assistance that SNAP would.

"Ironically, even with the cuts that are now being proposed in overall SNAP funding, people who need food aid in the Marianas would still be better off under SNAP than under the current block grant system. That's how big a disparity we are looking at between the help Americans in my district receive and that received by Americans protected by SNAP," he said.

Since 2009, Sablan has lobbied for increase in the CNMI block grant by 13.6 percent, the same increase that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act gave SNAP. He also was able to get another $1 million added administratively to the fiscal year 2012 block grant.

But he said this piecemeal approach is "not sustainable" nor does it provide an equivalent level of food assistance to CNMI beneficiaries.

"In fact, the block grant system has demonstrated its inherent weakness by forcing the local government, which administers the program, to cut benefits and wait-list applicants, as more people have become eligible," he said.

Sablan introduced H.R. 1465, or the AYUDA Act, to include the CNMI in SNAP to give CNMI people the same level of benefits provided to other Americans.

Fraud probe

Sablan said that bringing the CNMI under the administrative umbrella of SNAP will also improve management.

"We cannot tolerate waste, fraud, or abuse. Yet when the Northern Marianas governor met Department of Agriculture officials here in Washington in February, he reported to them there is fraud occurring in the Marianas," Sablan said.

The U.S. House Subcommittee on Nutrition and Horticulture Subcommittee have formally requested that USDA investigate the fraud Fitial reported.

Sablan said the subcommittee has yet to receive response from USDA.

"We have also received reports that the block grant program has been administered in the Northern Marianas in a manner that is in violation of the department's civil rights policies. The only response I have received from the department on this is that the local operations manual will be rewritten to say that such violations are prohibited, which checks the bureaucratic box, but does nothing to make whole those who did not receive the food assistance they were entitled to," he said.

The delegate said "even more frustrating" is that the USDA secretary already has the statutory authority to extend SNAP to the CNMI but he has not done so.

A measure approved Wednesday by the Agriculture panel would reduce the food stamp monthly benefit for a family of four by almost $60, repealing increases that were enacted three years ago as part of Obama's economic stimulus. The changes would also force up to 3 million people out of the program by tightening eligibility rules, the administration estimates, AP reported.

USCIS reminds employers to respond to each RFE

Employers must send a response with documentation for each Request for Evidence, or RFE, that they receive from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Employers may not submit one response with documentation for multiple petitions.

USCIS received some RFE responses in which an employer provided the necessary documentation for one file and listed in a cover letter several receipt numbers for other petitions that had received a similar RFE notice. Employers risk having their petitions denied if they do not provide a complete response to each RFE that they receive. The RFE describes the evidence that is needed for each individual petition.

Each I-129CW petition is handled separately, each RFE lists the unique receipt number of the petition for which USCIS needs additional information and each RFE is mailed out separately. The RFE provides instructions for responding. Employers must respond to each individual RFE within the 84-day deadline, as described in the RFE instructions, or the petition may be denied.

A request for evidence is made when an application or petition is missing the required documentation or evidence, or if USCIS needs more evidence to determine eligibility. The RFE states what evidence or information is needed for USCIS to fully evaluate your petition. The notice explains where to send the evidence and gives the deadline for response. The petition will be held in suspense during the time USCIS is awaiting your response. If you receive a request for evidence and have questions about what you need to submit, you may call our National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283 or email us at cnmi.csc@uscis.dhs.gov.

USCIS, an agency within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, handles immigration benefits. For more information on USCIS in relation to the CNMI, visit www.uscis.gov/cnmi or www.uscis.gov/cw. ***(USCIS)***

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Family members of the late Marine Lance Corporal Ramon Taisakan Kaipat lay a wreath by Kaipat's portrait during the memorial service at the Mount Carmel Cathedral on Friday.
CLARISSA V. DAVID

Fallen Marine remembered in memorial rites

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Government leaders and military veterans joined family and friends of the late Marine Lance Corporal Ramon Taisakan Kaipat in honoring the fallen hero in a memorial service at the Mount Carmel Cathedral last Friday.

Members of the CNMI House of Representatives and the Senate separately presented commemorative resolutions to the family of Kaipat, 22, the latest military casualty from the CNMI after paying the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom when he died while on combat patrol in the Helmand Province, Afghanistan on April 11.

Kaipat

Born and raised on Saipan, Kaipat died as a result of multiple injuries from an improvised explosive device during combat operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He belonged to the 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion of the 1st Marine Division out of Camp Pendleton in California.

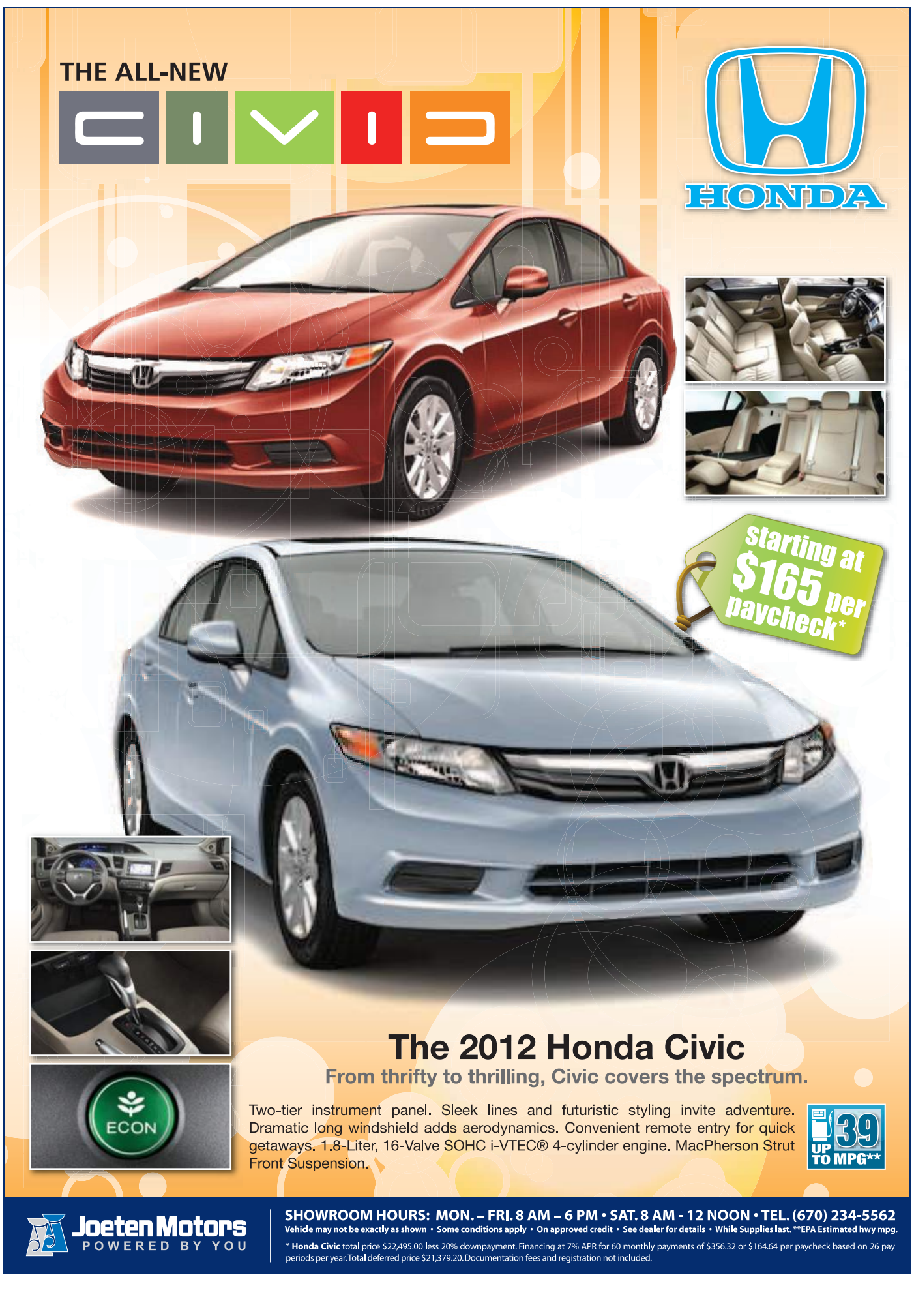
Kaipat "defended the freedoms that are at the very core of our nation and our identity and was a decorated and honorable young man who has not only cared deeply about our country but cared very much about improving the world around him," stated House Commemorative Resolution 17-25, which was read by Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro.

"[Kaipat's] courage, determination and undying will to fight for the freedom of his country and its people will forever be remembered by the people of the [CNMI], most especially the people of his beloved home of Saipan," reads the resolution.

Kaipat's first cousin, John Rebuenog, led family members in the laying of the wreath by Kaipat's portrait during the service and accepted both resolutions on the family's behalf.

"My brother, we will never forget," said Rebuenog, who works for the Ports Authority.

Friday's service concluded with the playing of the taps by members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3457 and the exit of colors by the Saipan Southern High School JROTC, followed by the celebration of a Mass.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The 2012 Honda Civic
From thrifty to thrilling, Civic covers the spectrum.
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* Honda Civic total price $22,495.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $356.32 or $164.64 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price $21,379.20. Documentation fees and registration not included.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

ANNOUNCEMENT

The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Program is pleased to announce that they are now accepting applications for Saipan, Tinian and Rota Vendors.

All interested vendors may pick up an application at the main office located on Upper Navy Hill Building # N-25, starting April 05, 2012 through June 28, 2012 (Monday to Thursday) or request for an application via email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org.

Applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program office no later than 4:00 p.m., June 28, 2012.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information provided to ensure minimum qualifications are met.

Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to the Vendor Management Coordinator, Fabian M. Ulloa at (670) 664-4066, by email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org or by facsimile at (670) 664-4069.

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

/s/ Juan N. Babauta
Chief Executive Officer
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

/s/ Carmen C. Cabrera
Administrator
CNMI WIC Program

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

ANNOUNCEMENT

In an effort to strengthen our Program Integrity, the CNMI WIC Program would like to inform the General Public to report suspicious activities from WIC vendors and/or participants committing Fraud and Abuse by contacting the Quality Assurance Coordinator, Mr. Ponce Rasa at (670) 664-4068 and (670) 285-4068 or email at poncer@cnmiwic.org and the Vendor Management Coordinator, Mr. Fabian Ulloa at (670) 664-4066 and (670) 285-4073 or email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org.

Remember all tips or reports are kept confidential and callers may choose to remain anonymous.

USDA is an equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

/s/ Juan N. Babauta
Chief Executive Officer
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

/s/ Carmen C. Cabrera
Administrator
CNMI WIC Program

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands • 1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

ANNOUNCEMENT

WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines 2012-2013

On March 23, 2012, a Notice announcing the revised WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines was published in the Federal Register. The adjusted income eligibility guidelines are used by State agencies in determining the income eligibility of persons applying to participate in the WIC Program. **The CNMI WIC Program will be implementing the new guidelines effective May 1, 2012.** So please check to see if you now qualify.

To be eligible on the basis of income, applicants' gross income (i.e. before taxes are withheld) must fall at or below 185 percent of the U.S. Poverty Income Guidelines (see below).

WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines (Effective from May 1, 2012 to April 30, 2013)

48 Contiguous States, D.C., Guam and Territories					
	Annual	Monthly	Twice-Monthly	Bi-Weekly	Weekly
1	$20,665	$1,723	$862	$795	$398
2	27,991	2,333	1,167	1,077	539
3	35,317	2,944	1,472	1,359	680
4	42,643	3,554	1,777	1,641	821
5	49,969	4,165	2,083	1,922	961
6	57,295	4,775	2,388	2,204	1,102
7	64,621	5,386	2,693	2,486	1,243
8	71,947	5,996	2,998	2,768	1,384
Each Add'l Member Add	+7,326	+611	+306	+282	+141

A person or certain family members who participate in other benefits programs, such as the Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly the Food Stamp Program), or Medicaid automatically meet the income eligibility requirement. For more information please call the WIC Clinic at 664-4084.

"In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis or race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (Voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

CEC dismissed from Davis' lawsuit

The U.S. District Court dismissed Friday the Commonwealth Election Commission from the lawsuit filed by John H. Davis Jr., a U.S. citizen who wants to stop the CEC from denying U.S. citizens who are not of Northern Marianas descent the right to vote of any issue regarding Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution or on any other issues.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ruled that CEC is dismissed from the lawsuit as it is not a proper defendant in any of Davis' claims in his second amended complaint.

Manglona pointed out that in the second amended complaint, Davis makes seven claims, the first four of which are generalized assertions that various CNMI laws violate the 14th and 15th Amendments.

The judge said the claims do not contain a request for relief from the acts of any particular state agent on the basis of any statutory right of action.

"Thus, they set forth no cognizable legal theory upon which relief may be granted from unlawful action by CEC," Manglona said.

Davis, a vice principal at Marianas High School, wants the court to declare that Article 18 Section 5(c) of the CNMI Constitution violates the 14th and 15th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution. Article 12 limits landownership in the CNMI only to those of NMI descent. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

USCIS CLARIFICATION

We've received a number of inquiries lately that seem to stem from confusion about terms we use and rumors that are circulating in the CNMI community. We'd like to clarify three main points:

1. I-129CW petitioners vs beneficiaries

A "petitioner" is the employer who submits the petition. Petitioner = employer.

A "beneficiary" is the worker who will receive an immigration status or benefit from the petition. Beneficiary = worker.

2. Getting information about pending cases

Only the petitioner or the petitioner's authorized representative is allowed to receive information about the employer's petition. Only the employer can ask questions and get official notices about a pending I-129CW petition.

If a worker has questions about the status of a petition filed on his/her behalf, the worker should ask those questions through the petitioning employer.

3. Processing times for I-129CW

Some false information has been circulating that processing times of I-129CW petitions are behind schedule. That is not true. In reality, the USCIS California Service Center is processing CW petitions within established timeframes for those beneficiaries who have completed biometrics processing.

If a beneficiary or beneficiaries of an I-129CW petition had their biometrics taken more than 45 days ago, and the petitioner has not received correspondence about their petition, they may contact us at CNMI.CSC@uscis.dhs.gov. The petitioner should provide the following information:

- Receipt number of the petition (the number on the receipt that starts with "WAC")
- Name of each beneficiary and the date(s) that each beneficiary appeared at the ASC in Garapan or another location in Tinian or Rota to have their biometrics taken. ***(USCIS)***

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

It is the policy of the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) to limit hiring to qualified US workers, as restricted by CNMI law, and that equal opportunity be given to all qualified US worker applicants regardless of age, sex or sexual orientation, religion, marital status, political status, veterans status, disability or place of origin.

Opening Date: 04/11/12 **Closing Date:** Continuous*

JVA#11-005:	Accountant Chief
Pay Level / Step:	Ungraded
Annual Salary:	$40,000.00 - $50,000.00**
Location:	Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan
JVA#12-003:	Marketing Trainee
Pay Level / Step:	12/02-12/08
Annual Salary:	$10,598.03 - $14,193.06**
Location:	Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan
JVA#12-004:	Community Project Assistant (Part-Time)
Pay Level / Step:	17/01-17/08
Annual Salary:	$12,431.54 - $17,482.77**
Location:	Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan
JVA#12-005:	Trades Technician II
Pay Level / Step:	22/01-22/10
Annual Salary:	$15,860.10 - $24,584.23**
Location:	Marianas Visitors Authority, Rota

*If not filled, the vacancy announcement will be continued and applications will be reviewed every two weeks thereafter until the search is closed. Deadlines that fall on a non-business day will be extended to the next business day.
** The salary given will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.

Interested persons may contact the Marianas Visitors Authority Office at (670) 664-3200/01 for more detailed information on position description. A completed application must be submitted together with the required documents for consideration until search is closed. A resume may be attached, but the application form must be filled out in full. MVA is an equal opportunity employer.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB12-PD-065 (1-15)

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 21, 2012 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF COMPUTERS/HARDWARES/SOFTWARES TO INCLUDE INSTALLATION FOR THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ADAM HARDWICKE
CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-12-014
SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF POWER DISTRIBUTION MATERIALS
(Obyan Overhead Power Line Extension Project)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Power Distribution Materials for the Obyan Overhead Power Line Extension Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-12-014, Supply & Delivery of Power Distribution Materials", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 2, 2012** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika.muna@cucgov.org or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen percent (15%) of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Payment and Performance Bond of one hundred percent (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods.

Bidders will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All inquiries with regards to this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **April 16, 2012** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika.muna@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Alfredo Palattao, Power Division Engineer via email alfredo.palattao@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-12-015

CALL CENTER SERVICES

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide Call Center Services for CUC Departments and Operating Centers located on Saipan, Tinian and Rota in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package and Scope-of-Work may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $ 100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **April 19, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-12-015, Call Center Services", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **May 9, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Offerors will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing no later than **April 23, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org; Janina Muna, Purchasing Administrative Assistant via email address mika.muna@cucgov.org with a copy to Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all offers and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 23, 2001

Senate to hold own inquiry on CUC debt

The Senate will hold separate independent inquiry on the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's outstanding loan from the Commonwealth Development Authority to shed light on the issue of breach of fiduciary responsibilities. Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez said regardless of the invitation extended by House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication Chair Rosiky Camacho to attend the CUC-CDA inquiry today, the Senate will still conduct its own investigation to determine the culpability of the utility corporation. However, Mr. Villagomez said the Senate PUTC will attend the inquiry today.

Govt raises awareness on NMI's health needs

In an effort to raise a healthy community through various health services, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio on Friday endorsed April 22 to 28 and April 22 to 29 as National Infant Immunization and Cancer Awareness Weeks. Mr. Tenorio said the CNMI is fortunate that active immunization program begun under the US Navy administration in the late 1950s. The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act created the Vaccines for Children Program as Section 1928 of the Social Security Act on August 10, 1993. "The Department of Public Health in the CNMI offers this service at no charge to children. All school-aged children are required to provide a blue health certificate or proof of compliance with immunization requirements," said Mr. Tenorio.

April 23, 2002

NMI to ride on coattails of US-Japan accord

To ensure that no momentum is lost, Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio said he intends to immediately follow up with the U.S. Department of Commerce on the recently signed agreement between the United States and Japan to ensure that the CNMI is not left out in the tourism expansion plans of the department. Tenorio, who left the Commonwealth yesterday afternoon for Washington D.C., said this will be one of his highest priorities once he arrives at the nation's capital. "I will be meeting with Commerce Undersecretary Douglas B. Baker to follow up on the [Tourism Export Expansion] Initiative and try to promote continuing involvement of the Commonwealth," said Tenorio.

CIP bill bounces back to Legislature

A Constitutional oversight on the bill that seeks to improve the administration of Capital Improvement Program funds has prompted Gov. Juan N. Babauta to veto the measure Friday. Babauta urged the Legislature, though, to merely amend Senate Bill 13-13 so it could conform to Constitutional requirements on exceeding employment ceilings and he would soon pass it into law. Employment ceiling refers to the maximum number of personnel that could be hired by each branch, department, agency, authority and public corporation in the CNMI, as established in the annual appropriations act.

April 23, 2003

'Open up Rota, Tinian for homestead program'

Conceding that Saipan may lack public lands enough to fully accommodate the Marianas Public Land Authority's homestead program, Senate Floor Leader Joaquin G. Adriano yesterday posed the possibility of opening up Rota and Tinian lands-even for Saipan recipients who are on the waiting list for their homestead share. The Tinian senator said he would not mind sharing his home island's public lands with Saipan residents, noting that this direction has the potential of boosting the senatorial district's economy. "Maybe Saipan will have limited resources of land but we can open up Tinian and Rota. People from Saipan [can] move to Tinian and that way, we'll continue the homestead program. The increase of population would help a lot for the island," the legislator told reporters yesterday.

Distribution of SARS sheet delayed

The distribution of information cards on Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome to all incoming passengers has been delayed pending the completion of its translation to other languages, Department of Health Secretary James U. Hofschneider said. "We're trying to get it all in different languages so that all incoming passengers can understand it," Hofschneider said Monday. Authorities need to translate the SARS information card, which is in English, to three other languages: Japanese, Chinese, and Korean.

‘Impressive entries’ raise the bar in Bridge Capital’s art contest

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Staff and management of Bridge Capital LLC led by one of its owners, Shawn Scott, sixth right, pose for a group photo following the awarding of the winners for the 3rd Annual CNMI Art Competition at the 31st Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival on April 21.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Bridge Capital LLC named the winners of its 3rd Annual CNMI Art Competition at the opening ceremony for the 31st Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival on Saturday.

One of the company’s owners, Shawn Scott, flew to Saipan to join the five-member panel of judges and present the prizes to the winners. Scott, in an interview after the awarding, described this year’s entries as “very, very impressive.”

“They’ve exceeded the previous two years by a fair amount and I think the talent just continues increasing,” he said.

All competition entries were original works of art illustrating an island theme.

Scott said it was “very, very hard” to judge all entries in the various categories because of the quality of work that the aspiring and professional artists put in.

“In our view, everyone’s a winner. All the participants are winners. We very much appreciate it,” he added.

While the number of entries for the K-12 categories decreased, Bridge Capital’s Rowena Relado noted an increase in the submissions for the open category, which totaled 42.

Scott, during his remarks, said that there were so many more photo entries this year that they are thinking of having a separate category for these prints.

“This is our third annual art competition for Bridge Capital so we believe that the future is very bright for the CNMI artists and we want to become more involved and foster more talents to come and join the festival every year,” said Scott.

Winners for the K-12 categories were Ashley Jeon Ji Hye, Ellala Limoico, Michelle Jeon Ji Yeon, Eun Bi Choi, William Blake Deleon Guerrero, Michael Ren, Jeremie Tanghal, Veeney France Revilla, Autumn Dileo, Yong Jeong Kim, and Janela Revilla. The young winners received $100 each.

For the open category, the winners were Michael Finey, $2,500, grand prize, *Master Navigators*; Eduardo Elenzano, $1,500, first prize, *Father and Son*; Joseph Weaver, $1,000, second prize, *Peek-a-Boo*; and Robert Hunter, $500, third prize, *Managaha Bound*.

All winning entries were put on display at the 31st Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival, which Bridge Capital sponsored this year for $10,000.

“I think the entire arts festival just seems to get better every year. It’s an honor for us to be a sponsor. We hope to become more involved in the future as it goes along,” said Scott.

He noted that they are “exploring” the possibility of putting up an art gallery to better foster local artists by giving them a place where they can display their creations in addition to regular exhibits organized by the Arts Council.

A known supporter of the arts, Bridge Capital is an international investment banking and asset management company headquartered on Saipan. The company is involved in a wide range of community activities and makes significant contributions to nonprofit and charitable organizations serving the islands.

For more information, call 322-2222.

Division of Environmental Quality • CNMI • DEQ

PUBLIC NOTICE

DEQ RELEASES 2012 DRAFT WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT REPORT

The CNMI Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ), under the Office of the Governor, hereby notifies the public that the Draft 2012 Integrated Water Quality Assessment Report has been made available for public review and comment on DEQ’s web page, www.deq.gov.mp.

Sections 303(d) and 305(b) of the U.S. Clean Water Act (CWA) require that all states, including the CNMI, monitor and assess all waters within the estate and report the results to the public, USEPA, and the U.S. Congress, public review is required and DEQ must address comments received by the public.

DEQ invites the public to review and comment on the 2012 Integrated Report, by submitting written comments in person to the DEQ office at the Gualo Rai Center on Middle Road (across from the Subway restaurant), by mail, or by e-mail to waterqualityreport@deq.gov.mp. E-mails contain the subject line “2012 IR Comments” or similar. All comments must be received by DEQ no later than April 18, 2012, in order for the comments to be considered by DEQ in preparation of the final Integrated Report. Mailed comments should be addressed to Mr. Frank Rabauliman, Director, Division of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN, MP 96950-1055 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

AMENDED NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for **RESTROOM REPAIRS AND WATER PUMP IMPROVEMENTS** at the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP 3-69-0002-62/65/67 (CPA-SA-002-09),** will be received at the office of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950.

All bids will be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: “Saipan International Airport Restroom Repairs and Water Pump Improvements, AIP 3-69-0002-62/65/67 (CPA-SA-002-09)” and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2012**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of two (2) groups: Project 1 is existing restroom repair such as replacement of doors, plumbing fixtures, floor and wall tiles, ceilings, and all toilet accessories; mechanical fixtures; electrical fixtures; replacement of the existing hydro-pneumatic tank; mechanical rehabilitation and replacement of the existing water pump motor and controls, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications, and Project 2 is a Design-Build of Restroom I in accordance with the Design/Build Concept Plans and Specifications. Bidders are reminded that the Construction Management (CM) team is not available for design services for Project 2.

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **THREE HUNDRED SIXTY (360) CALENDAR DAYS**. Liquidated damages of **FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($500.00)** shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are “responsive and responsible.” This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be “responsive or responsible”, their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP-70-25 of the specifications.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the “Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause”, a “Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities”, and the “Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation”, as contained in the bid proposal documents, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the bid proposal and contract documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS ($150.00)** for each set of plan documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier’s check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, ~~**10:00 AM, FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2012**~~, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. All prospective bidders are required to attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA’s best interest.

The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rates established by CNMI Law or Federal Law, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by US Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier’s check in the amount not less than **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Chairman of the Board/Contracting Officer

Date: April 10, 2012

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Deception in North Korea: Like father, like son

North Korea's new leader served up a surprise during recent celebrations of his grandfather's 100th birthday. At a massive military parade, Kim Jong Un spoke for 20 minutes in a speech broadcast live across the country. It was a dramatic departure from the habit of his father, whose voice wasn't heard by the populace until he shouted a one-line exhortation into a microphone at a 1992 parade.

But if anyone expected the country's youthful dictator to pursue a new approach, they were disappointed. Kim said his "first, second and third" priorities would be to make the military stronger. In his remarks, he perpetuated the illusion that North Korea was a rising power by proclaiming that military technology was no longer "monopolized by imperialists."

Not mentioned was the country's recent attempt to launch a satellite into orbit, and what that failure suggested about the real state of the North's technological capacity.

Nor did Kim mention that the decision to launch—in defiance of earlier pledges not to test long-range missiles—prompted Washington to terminate plans for a round of food aid to the famine-weakened country.

Before his accession to power, some analysts had wondered whether Kim Jong Un might chart a course to ease North Korea's severe isolation and the poverty of its people.

He was, after all, educated in Switzerland, where he was a fan of NBA star Michael Jordan. But published reports say he was a poor student who spent much of his time playing computer games and basketball.

In the third century, a dying Roman emperor advised his successor to see to the care of the soldiers first, to ensure they would see to the care of the emperor's power. Unfortunately, the young Kim seems determined to do the same, no matter what the cost to those whose sacrifices pay the bill.

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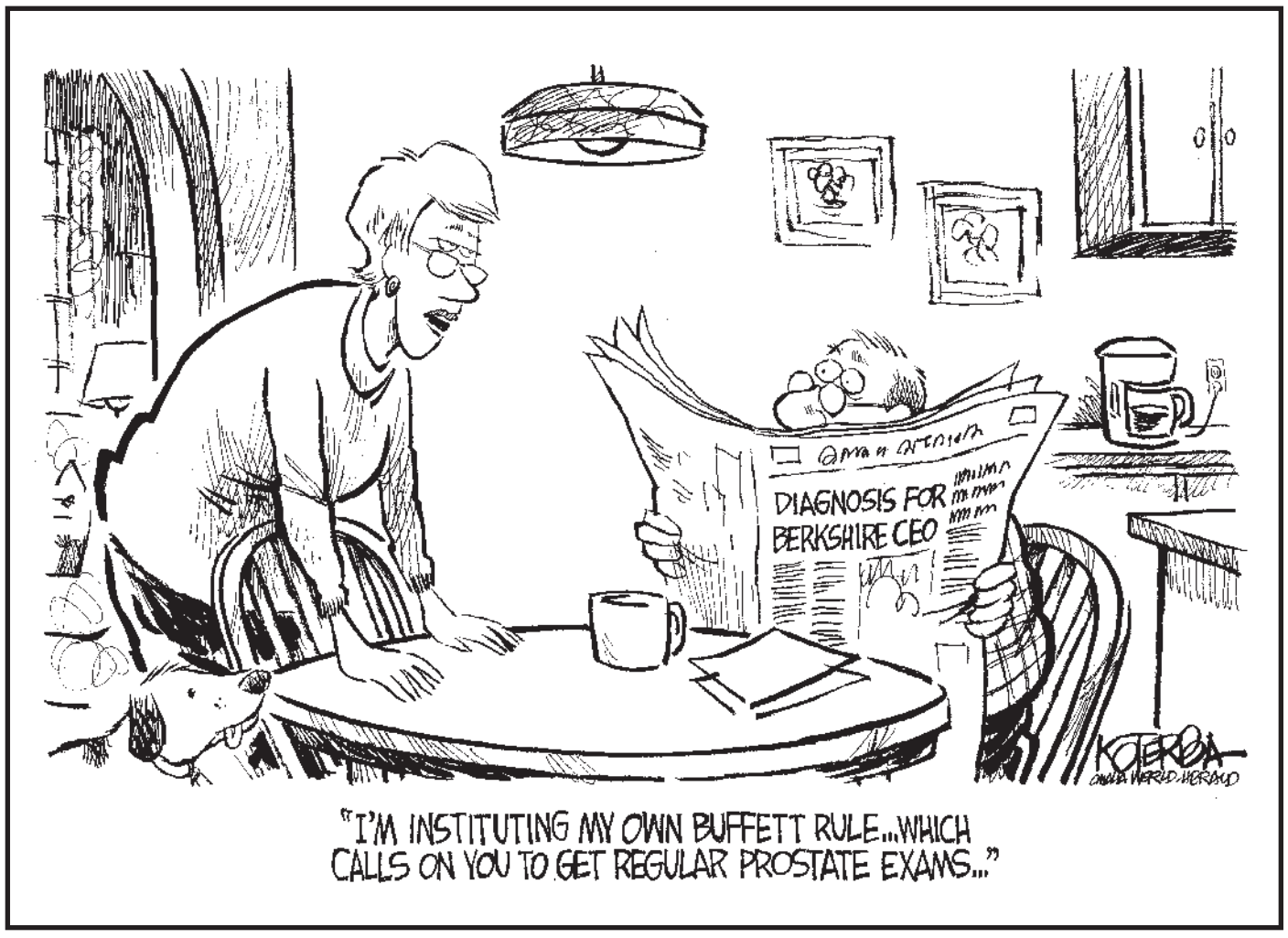

DIAGNOSIS FOR BERKSHIRE CEO
KOTERBA
"I'M INSTITUTING MY OWN BUFFETT RULE...WHICH CALLS ON YOU TO GET REGULAR PROSTATE EXAMS..."

I ♥ Earth

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

This image of E-a-a-r-th (spelled like McKibben's endangered planet) is shaped like a romanticized heart. Cardiologists have long debunked the notion that the seat of human emotions is in the palpitating organ but no matter. "Hearting" has not lost its punch if all the red heart-shaped symbols in t-shirts professing affection for someone, something, or someplace are any indication.

It is Earth Day again in the planet. This past year, Gaia had not been in a particularly tranquil mood. Drought hit where it used to be an effort to keep the water contained; floods swept through terrain that used to cough out dust even after the rain. There had been longer periods of blizzards at unexpected times; tornadoes had been fierce and frequent, while tsunamis terrified shorelines as tectonic plates seem to demonstrate a quicker propensity to quake-and-shake than ever before.

The gloom-and-doom crowd had not been short of all kinds of messages, ranging from the pseudo-scientific projections to the mystic ancient lore fantastic. The religious fanatic, coasting along Western civilization's salvation theology line—a mental architecture built and ideologically perfected in medieval times—perversely delights in the image of a catastrophic Armageddon so that the much-awaited "rapture" will finally occur. That one makes December 2012 a fear-filled time.

Meanwhile, climate change is consigned to the concerns of eccentric tree huggers, while Monday morning Washington, D.C. quarterbacks pick on their preference for the next regime change in the world. We call it satanic when someone like Charles Manson and followers try to induce a final reckoning to trigger a civilizational collapse. When we translate the same, like squeezing the lifeblood out of the Japanese economy in the blockade of the Straits of Malacca and Nippon's access to oil prior to WWII, we called it foreign policy. A not-so-surprising version is afoot with the China Containment Policy and the let-us-rile-the-*arirang* out of Pyongyang that the Obama-Clinton-Panetta triumvirate and their Pentagon think tanks have been mouthing in the Far East of late.

Additional armed presence is planned on a naval base in Jeju Do, the island between South Korea and Japan. Okinawa grunts will only relocate rather than move out of their station in the Ryukyus (sorry Guam). The Philippines is showing off its refurbished warship to scare off Chinese fishers off the islands of Huangyan in South China Sea, now renamed West Philippine Sea in RP-US diplomatic traffic. Serious negotiations are allegedly gabbed for the re-opening of the naval facilities at RP's Subic and Vietnam's Cam Ranh Bay.

Obama's promised 2,500-member U.S. Marine battalion finally landed in Darwin down under. One would think Hollywood was just setting up a film shoot on the Japanese invasion of Oz save the ammo is live and the props are of high incendiary quality. The *deja vu* is alarmingly too real. Fully armed GI Joe is back.

We've only covered the Pacific Far West (Asia Far East of old). At least the border conflict in Kashmir between India and Pakistan cooled off, especially after Mother Nature's avalanche buried a hundred-some lowlanders posted at the 6,000-meter elevated highest battleground in the world. The parties are now talking of turning the place into a Peace Mountain of the World, a rare bright spot in *Shi Jie* as it turns.

From Afghanistan comes news that the Taliban/al-Qaida have been creatures of counter-intelligence all along. It is rumored that Western interest are in the region to keep "peace and order," serving the interests of those who will explore, exploit, and explode the rich lodes of carbon and rare earth mineral resources abundant in the region. Ditto for fossil fuel access in the Middle East and in the various-stans of Central Asia. Maybe, military intelligence is not an oxymoron after all!

Africa is the new battleground for the hearts and minds of local folks in the conflicts over existing oil deposits, straining domestic tranquility in Sudan and the regions by the Niger. Uncle Sam aligns market security to the saber rattlers across the Potomac.

Zhongguo keeps to the middle way, keeping its own prosperity moving in measured cadence. The jerks and bounces abounding in international economics and trade, not to mention *Gaia's* frayed business frontiers, benefited from Sino intentionality.

Following in the footsteps of the West's banking institutions, China now faces the harsh realities behind its seeming prosperity. It wants to rebalance the tilted state of the distributive system on earned benefits, its leaders wants to expand economic activity into the significant realm of Zhong's treasures of the mind, and its Congress encourages everyone to be inclusive and innovative in an expanding though still guided lifestyle of democracy and freedom.

Beijing keeps its own facades. Overbuilt and underutilized commercial and residential structures tower over urban centers, and one wonders if a bubble burst is in the horizon. Rivers and lakes are showing signs of abuse, the air hovers thick with coal, its access to oil and natural gas limited, and Uncle Sam is playing at the edges with containment. Not a nice formula to keep Earth's Day in a smiley mood.

Nevertheless, this is the Earth we have. We can heart this day, or cast it away. This is the Earth we have.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

'Nai Ma-letke i Obligasion

Deste tutuhon programan man-ritirau gi 1980 mana' ke'yau pot diskuidu sa' ti maprebeniye fondoña kulan simiya 'ni siña mana' fan doku' yan adelanta para tinituhoña.

Deste ke ma-establese, lamayot patte gi fondun operasioña kinibre ni sentrun gobietnu. Lau gi entre sakan siha, tatnai maprebeniya kabales fondu para u tachu namaisa. Esta 32 años na tiempu deske maletke este na asuntu. Estague pagu na ha gacha' hit induktu i hagas manunog na problema. Kulan mohon mana' fan gagana interest lau higante na dibi.

I gobietnu ha didibi pagu i programa poku mas o'menos $300 miyon pesus. I presente na administrasion ti man-apase obligasion kontribusion deste 2006 na sakan. Guaha otru siha gobietnu antes de presente mañaunau maletke apas este na obligasion.

Umafagcha' este na induktu yan dañkulun maribahan kontribusion tax ginen todus poku mas o'menos $154 miyon. Este na sinisede ginen mahuchum bisnis siha guine. Memegaiña esta ti mana' siña apas utilidat yan otru siha gastu tat kumu gaselina yan nuebu na subridan sueddo ginen federat.

Hu katkukula na guaha mas ke $3-7 biyon pesus malagnos ginen iya Marianas 'nai matutuhon i mas man-dañkulu siha na bisnis fumalague i plasan batkon aire. 'Nai esta makat mamatinas ganansia, matutuhon ma-usa adeñg niha dumiñgu Marianas.

Gi maseha manu na sisteman demokrasia, debi i komunidan bisnis yan gobietnu de u hihot gi maplanehan todu kinalamten. Ha sede este katsu para manu na banda kulan lotgun. Lau taigue este guine gi tano'ta. Kada unu kunsukuat kinalamteña.

Tai planu i gobietnu ya ha sotta i otru banda gi kaprichoña. Este na diskuidu mas muna' chatsaga kinalamten ekonomian iya Marianas sa' mas menos rinikohen kontribusion tax ginen i bisnis siha guine.

Hokog salape' i Fondu, brok (broke) i gobietnu ya mas inatisa probleman i Fondu. Una ha' satbasioña este: U ma-otdin ni kotten federat i gobietnu ya u tutuhon man-apase de hemunos kau kuantu gi empleauña debi una' fan para pot para u fatinas haf' ma-obligague' ni kotten federat.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Dalai ya deste tiempu malie' na siempre u basnag i programa ya mafatkeluye sin una' kalamten kalañgkeña para u ina kritikatmiente haf' siña machogue? Kulan este i estorian un' chaka yan paluma gi empi' chandia gi taduñg na tasi. Mafondu sa' sige ha' i chaka chumochu estake ha dulog i fondu. Gumupu si paluma, matmus i cha'ka.

Todu klasen batida guaha pagu taimanu 'nai para umareskata i programan man-ritirau. Hafa na kontodu hita ni ti mañasaunau gi disision administrasion yan lehislatura (pot 32 años na diskuidu) para ta espihaye satbasion i tailaye yan dañosu na disision niha? Na ti ta elihe siha para u chogue chechu' linahyan?

■■■

Maulegña lina'la' lancheru

Para todu probleman iya Marianas ni finañagun diskuidon offisiat publiku, manma-elihe yan apuntau, kase mas trañkiluña lina'la' lancheru ke hafa na offisiu. Muna' fitme na pisu 'nai tumotohge sa' ha u'usa i tanu' 'nai ha prebeniniye mantension familiaña entre hatdin yan pinegsai. Repara sa' ginen i tanu' 'nai lumalala', prefektu tradision natibu.

Guaha planuña deste muna' doku' pipitas, abonu, lugat golai, choda, gulusina yan tinanom papa' odda' tat kumu sune, kamute, dagu yan nika kontodu pinegsai. Deste ke manana si Yuus ha tutuhon kalamten estake kulan esta maipe i semnag. 'Nai mapau ñaihon, ha birague' tatte para una' fonhayan checho'ña. Dispues hana' fañochu i pinegsai siha antes de u tulusgue' guatu gi lanchu.

Yangin pinegsai, ha asegura na fitme kelat guaka yan babue, kasiyas manog yan ñgañga' 'sino paluman mansu. Gi todu preparasion gi este na patte yan i hatdin todu ha asegura na kabales ha kubre i debi u fan machogue. Gi uttimon ha'ane ha repasa hafa siha linie'ña ni debi u fan malimienda gi sigiente dia. Ha embrarasa mapegan abonu, maregan hanom, 'sino amot yangin guaha ga'ga' gai chetnot.

Mina' hu sen fama lancheru 'sino peskadot sa' na tautague ti manmefnu' ya memegaiña besis 'nai grasiosu ke un' nina' bubu. Fotmat gi todu ha petsige ya brabu kalamten gi para una' felis todu tinanomña 'sino pinegsaiña. Sumen na humidde 'an humamyu kumonbetsasion. Lamegai na leksion siña un' eyag ginen siha.

Seguruyu' na i hinalom primet agua de Abrit na sakan, man-senmagof sa' inichane dididi' i nuebu na plinantan tinanom. Dispues lokue' de tiempun maipe, dañkulu na fina' fresko i finaton primet agua gi fina' lancheria siha. Estqague' na tautague komomprende kutturan tanu' sa' siha umu'usa i tanu man-mananom. Fangualu'an i tradision Chamorro deste tiempon antigu.

Gi halom prefektu lancheru, ti u lache matuñgu ma-eskomen mai'es para titiyas 'sino hina'men katnet yan guihan gi feggun kusina sanhiyuñg. I kusinan niha 'nai a'anog hafa magahet sentadan Chamorro deste antes. Kontodu i pau asu ginen i kusina mañge' pauña piot gi lemlim tautau 'an maliñgu i atdau gi sanlagu.

Ti chathinassu i lancheru tinahoñg salape' para u fondun manritirau 'sino appenas sensiyu para i hospitat. Sa hafa mohon? Sa' diariu machochu' sinparat para u kusecha lamayot patte gi prebension familiaña ginen masahalomña. Puntu: Ha planeha, diariu ha'aniña deste ke manana si Yuus esta'i minachom atdau gi sanlagu. Motmut antau na planu sin ditension.

■■■

Finapos guelu yan guela

I O'Perlas Iya Pasifiku tanu' Chamorro. Hagas lugat man-guelota yan guelata deste antigu na tiempu. Guaha kabales na kuttura yan tradision tanu'. Gai areglu i komunida maseha ti umafagcha' yan hineñggen Español, Haliman yan Japones. Taya' lokue i antigu na Chamorro 'nai man-estotba sa' trañkilu modun linala' guine siha na islas.

Deste aminasun ma'utot usun liñguahe yan otru siha otdin masuñgon pot para umana' fan la'la' i manatatte. Estague' na man-gaige hit guine pagu pot sakrifisiun guelu yan guela. Yangin siña ha mattit siha pot hita ni manatatte, pues seguruyu' na hita lokue' siña ta sakrifisia hit pot famaguonta.

Hafa ennau siha na sakrifisiu? Gaige ineppe giya hagu solamismu. Hagu' solu siña umoppe ennau na kuestion gi hafa finanaguemu gi famaguonmu pot para u fan mauleg na sudadanu yan kilisyanu gi halom komunidan iya Marianas.

Letters to the Editor

The time to work is now

Every election year I always feel the hatred in the atmosphere—among families, friends, neighbors, and the community in general. But never have I felt it more acutely than this year. The government in crisis, the economy close to crashing, and the health care system with its face in the toilet! The animosity is growing viler every day as life begins to crumble.

The leadership is already useless. There is no doubt about that. Everyone is in agreement that not one of them, and even as a group, is adept at fixing many of the problems we face and the doom that we should anticipate if things remain the same.

But the answer is not in hating each other. There are some redeeming qualities in every member of the leadership; otherwise they would not have won and would not have been loved and respected at some point in time. And yes, we are all friends at one time and will be friends another time. The freaking island is too small for that not to happen. It is the reality of life here. However, the question now is what, as people of the CNMI, are we going to do about it? Are we going to continue accepting things as they are or are we going to stand up for what we desperately need?

There is a way to go through this without exacerbating the flaming atmosphere. We need to form a group that can form a solid plan. Members wishing to run shall commit themselves by signing an agreement to adhere to the plan. Any deviation or attempt to change the plan on their own will be cause for recall and personal liability for their payroll when in office. Never mind that the plan may or may not work. We don't have time for that argument at this juncture. This can be worked out as time goes on with a cooperating and a committed team.

We need a team of people who are effective thinkers, negotiators, and doers. When we put a team together who can think to draw up a workable plan, negotiate well with the federal government or whoever, and will do whatever is necessary, within legal boundaries of course, to carry out the plan, then I would say we have hope for the CNMI. Otherwise, any other body—smart, intelligent, or having the Tina Sablan disease—when alone will not help. Just the opportunity for dissensions will lead to further and perhaps quicker or earlier retirement to our own graves.

I urge everyone to stop listening to individuals, in or out of the group, and listen to the plan and then select the runners. The very, very, very famous cliché "Having no plan does not constitute an emergency" is exactly where we are at now. However, we are already in a state of emergency and there is still no plan. Do we honestly think that we will survive? I beg to differ.

Fitial jokes and insults when he is not supposed to. So he is a callous joker. But we voted for him again. So what? Attacking him is not going to get us anywhere near where we should be without a plan. Just take him out, if the majority wishes to, but without a plan we will continue to slide uncontrollably downhill. Tina had the good virus but she was a maverick, having no negotiation skill. She is a poor loser and turns her back too quickly. So what? She is highly intelligent, honorable, and still a gem in the community. She is an asset. So Diego was part of the problem and left the leadership when he saw that it was sinking and didn't want his name tarnished. So what? Just make sure he does not get into office again but he is also intelligent and has a lot of influence.

Can we stop pointing fingers now and start looking for and working on solutions? Everything that is being printed in the newspaper is really very entertaining. However, it is time to be honest with ourselves and accept that ALL OF US screwed this one up royally by participation or acquiescence. The best of us still have the opportunity to join hands and work, instead of campaigning, to drum up some plans to lead us out of this fiasco that we are in.

Oh, and by the way, to the media people: Your role in this is to stop inflaming the public! Emotions cannot solve any problems. Yes, it sells papers, but please be a part of the solution and help ALL of us out here, including yourselves! Pay attention to those who have something concrete and who offer hope and those who don't wilt in this heat like the rest of the people of the CNMI who are waiting for miracles!

Juanita M. Mendiola
Marpo Heights, Tinian

A question for the Commission on Election

Hafa Adai Mr. Guerrero and the CNMI Commission on Election: We are writing this letter to request for your assistance. We are trying to register all CNMI residents we know in the United States (Texas, Arizona, California, Oregon, Washington, etc.) to vote this coming CNMI election. Our question is, can we submit all the applications to register to vote that we had gathered in one envelope and send it to the CNMI Commission on Election? We had instructed all the individuals we helped to send their applications to your office, but they have requested for us to send their applications to the CNMI Commission on Election. We will give all individuals with their applications an envelope and they will secure their applications within the envelope. We will put all the envelopes (applications) in one big express envelope and route it to your office.

Mr. Guerrero, may you please authorize our organization to forward the applications to your office? We had passed out applications to register to vote for our CNMI residents in the United States in past CNMI elections, but they were not privy to how and where to send their applications. The applications they got from us in the past were not properly handled and ended up not being sent to you for processing.

The Saipan Tinian Student Association & CNMI Absentee Organization's missions in the United States are to inform our CNMI residents and help them participate in our election process. Also we communicate with our people and we give them assistance with issues affecting them in the United States (welfare, home loans, home foreclosures, job placement, etc.) We are in the process of applying for a 501 c4 (politically motivated organization) with the federal government for our organization and our main offices will be located in Fresno, California and Kagman II, Saipan.

We have processed over five applications or more in Texas and we will be processing more this coming weekend. We are going to be processing applications in California during the month of May and in Washington State during the CNMI residents' gathering in June. We are waiting for your response so we can start forwarding the applications to your office. Your favorable response is appreciated.

Segundo Castro
President/founder
Saipan Tinian Student Association
CNMI Absentee Organization
Fresno, California

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

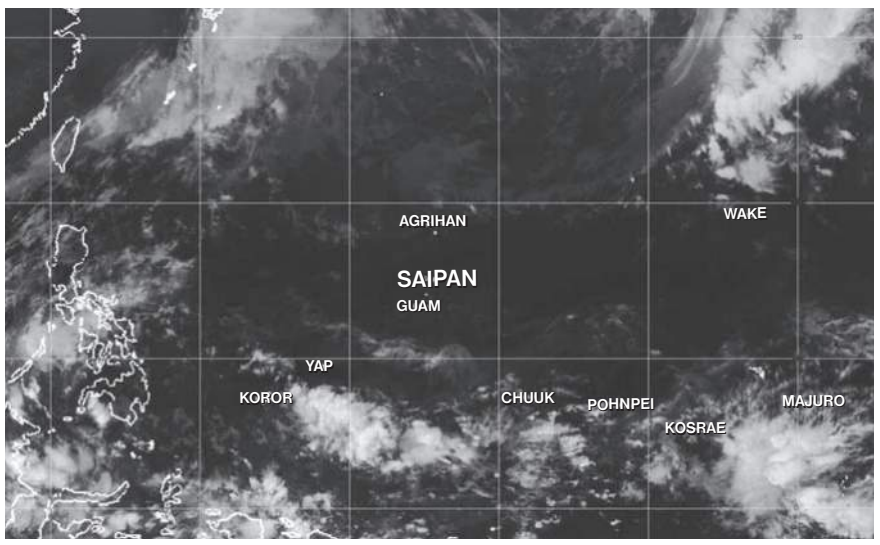
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼76
Yap	Showers	▲89	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲90	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼56
Beijing	Showers	▲69	▼53
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲79	▼76
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼70
London	Rain	▲51	▼45
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼55
Manila	Cloudy	▲92	▼82
Melbourne	Showers	▲59	▼47
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼66
New York	Showers	▲46	▼39
Osaka	Sunny	▲70	▼55
Paris	Rain	▲53	▼42
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼58
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼52
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼46
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼54
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼49
Tokyo	Showers	▲71	▼55
Washington, DC	Showers	▲55	▼43

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from a low pressure system centered north of Wake Island at 26N165E to near Minami Tori Shima at 22N155E then curves northwestward as a nearly stationary front through the far Northern CNMI at 19N146E to beyond 25N at 132E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the low pressure system or north of a line from 21N161E to 23N166E. Scattered showers are found along and up to 230 miles northwest of the cold front. Patchy clouds and showers are seen along and up to 200 miles north of the stationary front. A surface trough runs northward from EQ137E to 6N134E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms associated with this feature are present over Koror but south of Yap between the equator and 9N from 132E to 142E. Another surface trough reaches northward from EQ148E to 5N147E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are evident near the trough axis southwest and south of Chuuk between the equator and 6N from 143E to 155E. Strong trade-wind convergence is creating numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Kosrae and Majuro but over Tarawa and Butaritari atolls or south of a line from 5N162E to 3N174E. Scattered showers are happening farther east or south of a line from 3N174E to 6N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:01 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
9:03 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
4:11 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
10:53 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:58 AM	6:33 PM
Tuesday	5:57 AM	6:33 PM
Wednesday	5:57 AM	6:33 PM
Thursday	5:56 AM	6:34 PM
Friday	5:56 AM	6:34 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:00 AM	8:08 PM
Tuesday	7:45 AM	8:58 PM
Wednesday	8:32 AM	9:47 PM
Thursday	9:22 AM	10:36 PM
Friday	10:13 AM	11:22 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
0Z119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
0Z606	2:10am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
0Z604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
0Z608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
0Z606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
0Z606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05076/147	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN
0Z604/749	3:20pm	10:50pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:20am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
0Z120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
0Z605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
0Z605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
0Z607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
0Z722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Letters to the Editor

Teachers of autism

The *John Gonzales Show* to air Monday and Tuesday interviewed two students with autism. Mentioned was how a lack of autism understanding by teachers and the absence of school therapists make school a lot tougher than it should be for those with autism. While the PSS Head Start program addresses autism with some of the best teachers, therapists, and programs found anywhere, above that level they are severely lacking.

April is Autism Awareness Month. As such, for the awareness of teachers and all others that can and should be teachers to those with autism, excerpts from the book *Ten Things Your Student with Autism Wishes you Knew* are shared: Your student with autism is like a Mac in a PC-dominated environment. He is hardwired differently. Not incorrectly—just differently…whose operating system is different from everyone else who is not on the autism spectrum. …We need to adapt our teaching to his operating system.

…This different architectural thought process has nothing to do with your student's 'abilities.' We will never know the true extent of those abilities unless we establish communication via the architecture he has in place. ….This difference in architecture impacts the skills embodied in what we call critical thinking. …These skills are missing from your ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) students' hardwiring. But it is emphatically not true that they cannot be developed.

…No two ASD children are alike, but all their stories echo a common denominator: individual teachers had the power to make or break their will to stay the course and achieve. At every turn in every day, we have the opportunity to help our student with autism understand our neuro-typical patterns of communicating and relating, and teach those skills that are so elusive to the autism way of thinking.

…Your student with autism has one-channel wiring in a polyphonic world. He likely processes most information via the one learning intelligence that works best for him; in most students with autism, this will be visual or tactile; less commonly, auditory. He struggles to process multiple sensory modalities. …It can be especially difficult to listen and write at the same time, or even to converse and make eye contact at the same time. The seamless integration among the senses that happens within the neuro-typical brain is missing in his brain. …Constantly under a barrage of sensory chaos, he becomes physically as well as emotionally exhausted…each bit of information taken in exists in separate, discrete "boxes" in his brain.

…Our brain organizes the information we take in and even cross-references it for us. Not so for your student with autism. Categorical thinking is difficult for him and must be taught. … As his teacher, you need to help him learn to organize, label, and associate all that information…*categorize…apply concepts…identify cause and effect*…think *flexibly and cohesively* the power of having a plan B or C…

Their extreme dependence on routine and sameness is a result of a thinking architecture that has difficulty processing change. Even small variations from expectation—taking a different route to school, having a substitute teacher, changing the student's desks around, create cognitive chaos that can domino-affect the entire course of the day. …Metaphors, idioms and figurative language are not part of his mindset. In the classroom this can result in difficulty. …He might respond well to prompted retrieval, such as a multiple-choice or matching quiz. Difficulty skyrockets when he is faced with tasks entailing open-ended recall without aid of prompting or cueing. …Many of the social/emotional gaps in your student with autism stem from this impaired perspective-taking. He can't anticipate what others might say or do in different situations, nor understand that what one person does in a given situation, another person may never do!

...Accept and respect that they think differently, then find effective ways to adapt our teaching accordingly. If we can't manage to be flexible in our own approach to teaching him, if we don't accept his basic mental functioning as valid and worthy of our effort, if we reject or disregard him at his very core level—we can't expect him to respond with any degree of motivation or desire to connect to us or our world. The sweet spot is a meeting place somewhere in the middle. We shift our thinking enough to be able to teach to his way of thinking in a meaningful way. Then he can learn to be more comfortable with our way of thinking, and to feel competent in a neuro-typical world. Little by little the familiarity between us grows. Macs now communicate with PCs…There's never been a better time to "think differently." You and your student will both learn things you never knew you never knew.

Paul Plunkett
Dandan, Saipan

A failure of leadership

The impending demise of the NMI Retirement Fund has jolted and woken us up from the deep sleep of apathy. The leaders whom we have elected to guide and steer us away from economic and governmental disaster—we have found out—have utterly failed in discharging their duties and responsibilities under the Constitution. And now people will have to suffer as a result of the ineptitude and arrogance of our elected leaders, as well as their abuse of power and of the public trust.

For over a decade now, our leaders knew that if they don't shape up and correct our economic course and the way we govern ourselves, the Commonwealth ship of state would run aground. Blinded by the power of their office, however, they refuse to acknowledge the need to do something positive and constructive, so that we wouldn't end up in the mess that we are now in: essentially bankrupt and with no idea what to do.

Almost everything is falling apart. Our only hospital and the public health system are on the verge of collapsing. The Public School System—for several years now—has been experiencing great difficulty trying to make ends meet, as shown recently by their inability to pay their power bill. And the Commonwealth, as we all know, has been experiencing its longest economic recession in history. Yet, our leaders—embarrassingly and in an apparent effort to distract from addressing the crises we are going through—still find the time to engage in political name-calling and in taking cheap pot-shots at one another. They fail to realize that such childish antics only demean themselves and erase any respect we have for them. It is a sign of immaturity. They should know that we elected them to office to serve the public and to promote *our* welfare and well-being, not theirs. And if they can no longer perform the duties and responsibilities required and expected of them, then clearly their immediate resignation from office is in order.

Jose S. Dela Cruz
Navy Hill, Saipan

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION	NEED	SALARY RANGE	QUALIFICATION	CLOSING DATE
Elementary School Teacher (5th Grade-self contained including religion)	01	$18,000/annum to $37,400/annum	Graduate from an Accredited College/University with B.A. in Education or Related Field.	05/04/12
Religion/Theology Teacher (7th & 8th Grade Religion & Theology I, II, III, & IV)	01	$18,000/annum to $37,990/annum	Graduate from an Accredited College/University with B.A. in Education or Related Field. Applicant must be Catholic.	05/04/12
High School Teacher-Math/Science (Algebra I & II, Geometry, Pre-Calculus & Physics)	01	$18,000/annum to $37,990/annum	Graduate from an Accredited College/University with B.A. in Education or Related Field.	05/04/12
Jr. High & High School Teacher-Science (Earth Sci., Gen. Sci., Biology I, AP Biology, Chemistry, Environ. Science)	01	$18,000/annum to $37,990/annum	Graduate from an Accredited College/University with B.A. in Education or Related Field.	05/04/12
Jr. High & High School Teacher-Social Studies/Math (US History, Civics, Pre-Algebra)	01	$18,000/annum to $37,990/annum	Graduate from an Accredited College/University with B.A. in Education or Related Field.	05/04/12
Computer & Math Teacher (1st to 12th, Digital Arts & General Math)	01	$18,000/annum to $37,990/annum	Graduate from an Accredited College/University with B.A. in Education or Related Field	05/04/12
Accountant	01	$17,000/annum to $26,395/annum	Graduate from an Accredited College/University with B.S.in Accounting plus 02 years exp. in accounting.	Until Filled

Interested applicants may obtain a detailed job description with qualification requirements and application forms at Mount Carmel School Business Office from 08:00 am to 05:00 pm. Application forms can also be downloaded from the school's website at http://www.mtcarmel-edu.net. Required documents that must be attached to complete the application form: (1) official copy of diploma/degree or Official Transcripts; (2) FBI clearance (only required after an offer for employment is made or an employment contract is signed; (3) police clearance (from jurisdiction or residence within the last three (3) months; (4) resume; and (5) teaching certificate. Completed application and required documents may be submitted to Mount Carmel School, ATTN: Margaret C. DelaCruz, President, P.O. Box 500006, Saipan, MP 96950. Inquiries can be made by calling (670) 235-1251 or (670) 235-3187. Mount Carmel School is an equal opportunity employer.

Fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 12-010

Opening Date: Tuesday, 4/13/12
Closing Date: Until Filled

SENIOR ENGINEER

Duties: The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is a government utility providing power, water, and wastewater services in the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI), a United States commonwealth adjacent Asia and about three hours south of Tokyo, Japan. The incumbent of this position is under the overall supervision of the Chief Engineer or his/her designee. Coordinates and meets with other divisional sections and corporate divisions to coordinate activities and projects. Supervises engineering support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staffs are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs project management activities to include: preparing reports, memorandums and recommendations; developing scope of work; providing technical reviews; surveying for projects; developing procurement documents, evaluating proposals; monitoring project process; approving payment; and, recommending award of projects. Prepares engineering designs, plans and specifications; collects data and performs research. Troubleshoots systems and equipment. Planning, design, construction management, and operations of water and wastewater systems in a marine environment. Research, write, and manage the conditions and requirements of federal grants for water and wastewater systems. Reviews work performed by engineering technicians. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level.

LOCATION: Water and Wastewater Divisions, **SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands, USA**.

SALARY: $60,000 to $90,000 per year; un-graded, un-classified.

(Plus negotiable relocation costs to and from the NMI if hired from outside the NMI, but not to exceed $15,000 for relocation to the NMI and not to exceed $5,000 for relocation away from the NMI)

POSITION(S): One.

CONTRACT: Two-year.

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's Degree in Civil (or Environmental), Electrical, or Mechanical Engineering and four years of directly related experience in a water or wastewater utility. A Master's Degree in Engineering is preferred. Must be a licensed professional engineer from a U.S. state or territory. An engineer with an active NCEES Record preferred. Knowledge of: Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Engineering principles and practices. Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Managing multiple projects; Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Interpreting drawings; Preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; Reading and interpreting scaled drawings; Preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; Conducting studies; Using computers and related software applications; Using CAD programs to prepare plans for small projects and exhibits; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a U.S. driver's license.

Applications may be picked up at the Human Resource Office or the CUC Tinian Office or CUC Rota Office. Failure to provide the required documents listed on the application will be grounds for disqualification.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

31st Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival

PHOTOS BY
CLARISSA V. DAVID

The award-winning group Umang Glee Club of Koblerville Elementary School sings to the crowd.

Young dancers of Uncle Ben's Music and Dance Studio demonstrate a Philippine cultural dance.

Alan la cultural dancers wear colorful island costumes and big smiles as they perform for their audience.

Female dancers perform the hula.

Male dancers of Alan la take center stage.

Young female dancers gesture as they sing and dance for the crowd.

Off Limitz dance group from Rota.

Trixters dance group, also from Rota.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Arts Council board chair Joseph M. Diaz present the dedication award to the family of Mi' I Tekopua during the opening ceremony on Saturday.

Family members of the late William H. Kintz receive the dedication award from Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Arts Council board chair Joseph M. Diaz.

Male cultural dancers form a circle by the fire which they used during their performance.

A female dancer is all smiles as she concludes her performance.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is flanked by Bridge Capital owner Shawn Scott and Chuuk Lt. Gov. Johnson Elimo.

Local artist Nick Klewei demonstrates wood carving at his booth.

Guam's Man Atungo band.

A cultural performer works her hat prop.

Saipan Awaodori dancers show off moves at 5th Awaodori Festival

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Community members were treated to a night of street dancing as PDM Promoters hosted anew the Annual Saipan Awaodori Festival last April 19.

Members of the Saipan Awaodori Team performed alongside 12 dancers and musicians of the Tokyo Tensui-ren and representatives from Benkei-ren and Aoi Shin-ren groups, which flew in from Japan especially for the festival.

The three visiting groups are among the most famous groups that participate in the annual Koenji Tokyo Awaodori Festival, which takes place in the last week of August.

Japan's Awaodori festivals are celebrated with thousands of dancers performing the Awa dance to upbeat music and parade along the streets.

This year marks the 5th anniversary of the Saipan Awaodori Festival, which is home based at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan to coincide with the Street Market every Thursday.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Marianas Visitors Authority's Judy Torres presents a certificate to a representative of the Tokyo Tensui-ren at the Thursday Street Market.

With the temporary relocation of the street market to Garapan Fishing Base, however, the dancers performed in several locations in Garapan: the Fiesta Resort & Spa lobby entrance, right outside Power 99 radio station at Paseo de Marianas, DFS Galleria entrance fronting ABC Store, and concluded their performance at the Street Market where hundreds awaited their Awaodori presentation.

Marianas Visitors Authority's Judy Torres presented at the Thursday Street Market a certificate of appreciation to the Tokyo Tensui-ren recognizing its support and promotion of the CNMI as a preferred travel destination.

Noriko Machi, a drummer for the Tokyo Tensui-ren, said in an interview that this is her second year to participate in the Saipan Awaodori Festival and described the children's performance as impressive.

"They are so great. I feel like they enjoyed. I feel that, that's why I'm so impressed," she said.

Machi, who performed with the Saipan Awaodori dancers from Saipan during the 54th Tokyo Koenji Awaodori Dance Festival last August 28 to 29, 2010, noted the improvement among the young dancers.

"If they love Awaodori, they can learn and improve," Machi told *Saipan Tribune*.

PDM Promoters director Misako Kamata agreed with Machi on the progress the Saipan Awaodori Team members have made in their craft.

"I think all the kids showed very, very good performance. Each year, there is improvement. Members from Japan are really happy. For the new members, I think they're still shy but if you wait a few more months, they will be very proud dancing Awaodori," said Kamata.

The Saipan Awaodori Team also performed at the opening night of the 31st Annual Flame Tree Festival last Friday. They are scheduled to perform at the Taste of Marianas on May 5 and the July 4 festivities.

Machi said it's possible for them to come back to once again participate in the festival. Her advice to new Saipan Awaodori dancers? "Practice is an important thing but the most important is to enjoy dancing," Machi said.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Members of the Saipan Awaodori Team perform with visiting Japanese dancers and musicians at the DFS Galleria entrance fronting ABC Store in Garapan.

10 fishermen rescued from burning ship in Pacific

APRA HARBOR, Guam— The U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Navy and Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue partners coordinated in rescueing 10 crewmembers who were forced to abandon ship due to a shipboard fire 700 miles west of Guam Saturday.

Coast Guard Sector Guam watchstanders received an initial alert from an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon from the *Hsin Man Chun*, a 70-foot Taiwanese fishing vessel, at 4:30pm Saturday.

Watchstanders then received a call from rescue coordination center in Taipei, China reporting that a sister ship of the *Hsin Man Chun* received a radio call indicating the crew was planning to abandon ship.

A Navy P-3 Orion long-range search aircraft from Patrol Squadron 1 stationed at Kadena Air Base, Japan, overflew the vessel and reported eight crewmembers in a life raft and two more on the bridge of the burning vessel. The P-3 crew deployed two life rafts to assist the crewmembers that remained behind. They passed the location of the distressed crewmembers to the *Semirio*, a Marshallese flagged bulk carrier diverted to the area by the Coast Guard.

The *Semirio* was only 40 miles away from the distressed vessel and was asked to assist. Once on scene, the 950-foot bulk carrier launched a small boat and successfully rescued all 10 crewmembers. The *Semirio* is one of many foreign flagged vessels operating in the Pacific that voluntarily participate in the AMVER System.

AMVER, sponsored by the U.S. Coast Guard, is a unique, computer-based, and voluntary global ship reporting system used worldwide by search and rescue authorities to arrange for assistance to persons in distress at sea. With AMVER, rescue coordinators can identify participating ships in the area of distress and divert the best-suited ship or ships to respond.

For more information about AMVER visit www.amver.com. ***(USCG)***

Severe weather: Know your risk, take action, be a force of nature

As the nation marks the first anniversary of one of the largest tornado outbreaks in U.S. history, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Federal Emergency Management Agency are teaming up this week to save lives from severe weather.

The two agencies encourage the public nationally and in FEMA Region 9, which encompasses California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii and territories and nations in the Pacific, to "know your risk, take action, and be a force of nature" by taking proactive preparedness measures and inspiring others to do the same. While the type and severity of threats vary across FEMA's 10 Regions, the need to be prepared is universal.

Last April, tornadoes raked the central and southern United States, spawning more than 300 tornadoes and claiming hundreds of lives. That devastating, historic outbreak was only one of many weather-related tragedies in 2011, which now holds the record for the greatest number of multi-billion dollar weather disasters in the nation's history.

The country has already experienced early and destructive tornado outbreaks in the Midwest and South this year over the last two months, including a significant number of tornadoes last weekend. May is the peak season for tornadoes, so it is important to take action now.

» FEMA, NOAA launch first National Severe Weather Preparedness Week April 22-28

"The damaging tornadoes that struck this year, causing widespread devastation as well as loss of life, also spurred many amazing and heroic survival stories," said NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenco, Ph.D. "In every one of these stories, people heard the warning, understood a weather hazard was imminent and took immediate action. We can build a Weather-Ready Nation by empowering people with the information they need to take preparedness actions across the country."

"One of the lessons we can take away from the recent tornado outbreaks is that severe weather can happen anytime, anywhere," said FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. "While we can't control where or when it might hit, we can take steps in advance to prepare and that's why we are asking people to pledge to prepare, and share with others so they will do the same."

To "be a force of nature," FEMA and NOAA encourage citizens to prepare for extreme weather by following these guidelines:

■ **KNOW YOUR RISK:** The first step to becoming weather-ready is to understand the type of hazardous weather that can affect where you live and work, and how the weather could impact you and your family. Check the weather forecast regularly and sign up for alerts from your local emergency management officials. Severe weather comes in many forms and your shelter plan should include all types of local hazards.

■ **TAKE ACTION:** Pledge to develop an emergency plan based on your local weather hazards and practice how and where to take shelter. Create or refresh an emergency kit for needed food, supplies and medication. Post your plan where visitors can see it. Learn what you can do to strengthen your home or business against severe weather. Obtain a NOAA Weather Radio. Download FEMA's mobile app so you can access important safety tips on what to do before and during severe weather. Understand the weather warning system and become a certified storm spotter through the National Weather Service.

■ **BE A FORCE OF NATURE:** Once you have taken action, tell your family, friends, school staff and co-workers about how they can prepare. Share the resources and alert systems you discovered with your social media network. Studies show individuals need to receive messages a number of ways before acting - and you can be one of those sources. When you go to shelter during a warning, send a text, tweet or post a status update so your friends and family know. You might just save their lives, too. For more information on how you can participate, visit www.ready.gov/severeweather. ***(FEMA)***

SSHS' Kai Kai Company is NMI's first JA competition champ

» Zachary Sablan named President of the Year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Saipan Southern High School emerged victorious in the first-ever Junior Achievement competition in the CNMI after its entry, Kai Kai Company, swept major awards, including five major titles, during Saturday morning's awarding rites.

The Junior Achievement program aims to cultivate work-readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy among students by engaging them in the practical experience of running a business. This year, five school teams joined the competition that ran from January to April—with the goal of bringing to the table a unique product for consumers. All teams showcased their output in a trade fair at a recent Thursday night Street Market.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Saipan Southern High School students, principal, and mentors gather for a group photo after the awarding rites Saturday at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan where its entry, Kai Kai Company, emerged champion in the CNMI Junior Achievement competition. The team swept five major honors, including Company of the Year, Best President of the Year, Best in Trade Fair, Best in Annual Report, and Best Vice President of Production.

Kai Kai's Co. was named Company of the Year for its winning "Skeezaball," a stress-relieving ball for adults and a novelty item for children, which appealed to both judges and consumers at the trade fair.

Its chief executive officer Zachary Sablan was also hailed President of the Year after demonstrating excellent leadership and capability in the actual handling of an enterprise.

Prior to the awarding rites, Sablan said it is his dream to become a successful businessman not only in the CNMI but the entire Pacific region. When asked to share his experiences in the 12 weeks they worked on their businesses, Sablan said: "I walked in with fear, and I walked out with pride."

He later told *Saipan Tribune* that his award would not have been possible without the cooperation and teamwork put in by all 25 "employees," their teachers and volunteer business leaders who mentored the team. "So I share this honor with all of them."

He has only four words for future entrepreneurs: "Work with the deadlines."

The judges also bestowed on Kai Kai Co. three other major awards: Best in Trade Fair, Best Annual Report, and Yoshihiro Yagi as Best Vice-President for Production.

Yagi disclosed that the company started with a $350 capital, sourced from each member's $5 shares of stocks. The seed capital was used mainly to buy locally made materials for the "Skeezaball."

The group sold 95 units of "Skeezaball" during their presentation at the Garapan Street Market, mostly to tourists and children at $3.99 apiece. Yagi shared that the company made a profit of about $500, minus expenditures. The team is thinking of either passing the money on to future JA members at SSHS or for a victory party for members.

Yagi cited the importance of proper management as one of the biggest lessons he learned from the whole JA experience.

SSHS principal Jesse Tudela expressed his appreciation to the team members and their mentors for coming up with a unique product that can go beyond the JA competition. Seeing the hard work and products of all the teams makes Tudela confident that the JA program will produce more and more business leaders and entrepreneurs for the CNMI.

Other awardees

Kagman High School's Sustainable Solutions also went home victorious after it bagged the competition's Best Business Presentation and Commercial Award for its "Eco-ball" product. The team's Akeiko Dela Cruz was also hailed Best Vice President for Finance.

The Perseverance Award was bestowed on Tinian High School's Tag Attire company while Marianas High School's Bendi received the competition's Best Vice President for Human Resource Award for Daphne Dela Cruz.

Rota High School's Sweatz company received the Best Vice President of Marketing award for Austin Delos Santos and Best Vice President for Public Relations for Romela De Guzman.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan described the JA competition as very competitive and was amazed by the quality of products that were showcased by the students. Because of the success of this first JA contest, she said the Public School System will start the process earlier next year.

Besides the major awards, Board of Education member Galvin Deleon Guerrero, as JA program coordinator for the CNMI, also presented certificates of recognition to all program partners in government and private businesses who volunteered to mentor the school teams.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Dr. Rita Hocog-Inos High School's Sweatz company is bestowed the Best Vice President of Marketing award.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Kagman High School's Sustainable Solutions Company won the Best Business Presentation and Commercial and Best Vice President of Finance awards for its product called "Eco-ball."

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Marianas High School's Bendi company bags the competition's Best Vice President of Human Resources award.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

The JA's Perseverance Award is received by Tinian High School's Tag Attire company.

Business

FHB's Q1 earnings up 1.9 percent

» Net income of $53.5 million

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—First Hawaiian Bank on Friday announced 2012 first quarter net income of $53.5 million, excluding after-tax security gains. This represents a 1.9-percent increase over the $52.5 million earned in the first quarter of 2011, also excluding after-tax security gains. The announcement was made by Bob Harrison, First Hawaiian Bank president and chief executive officer.

"Continuing the momentum we achieved in 2011, the bank's solid first quarter performance represents a 6.2-percent increase over the previous quarter," Harrison said.

Compared to the previous year, for the first three months ending March 31, 2012, First Hawaiian achieved the following:

■ Total assets grew to $16.1 billion, an increase of 6.5 percent and the highest asset total in the company's history.

■ Deposits were $12.4 billion, up 15.0 percent.

■ Loans and leases were $8.4 billion, a 2.8-percent increase

■ Capital (net worth) was in excess of $2.6 billion, and remained well above Hawaii banks and in the top quartile nationally as a percentage of total assets.

■ Non-performing assets to total assets remained one of the best in the U.S. at 0.22 percent.

■ Efficiency ratio of 42.8 percent was the lowest among commercial banks in Hawaii and one of the lowest in the U.S., ranking First Hawaiian among the most efficient banks in the nation.

During the quarter, the bank announced plans to renovate its Makiki Branch this year and build a new larger branch in Aina Haina as part of its strategy to build long-lasting personal and business customer relationships.

Finally, First Hawaiian recently published its 2012 first quarter Business Activity Report,, which tracks sales activity in 16 different economic sectors. The BAR underscored the state's continued economic recovery with a 10.38-percent increase in first quarter same store sales over the comparable period of 2011. This was the highest quarterly percentage increase in two years.

First Hawaiian Bank (www.fhb.com) with $16.1 billion in total assets was founded in 1858 and is Hawaii's oldest and largest bank. It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of BNP Paribas, a leading global financial services institution. BNP Paribas is one of the highest rated banks in the world with a AA- credit rating from Standard & Poor's. ***(FHB)***

Report: Wal-Mart hushed up bribe network in Mexico

NEW YORK (AP)—Wal-Mart Stores Inc. hushed up a vast bribery campaign that top executives of its Mexican subsidiary carried out to build stores across that country, according to a published report.

The New York Times reported Saturday that Wal-Mart failed to notify law enforcement officials even after its own investigators found evidence of millions of dollars in bribes. The newspaper said the company shut down its internal probe despite a report by its lead investigator that Mexican and U.S. laws likely were violated.

The bribery campaign was reported to have first come to the attention of senior executives at Wal-Mart in 2005, when a former executive of its largest foreign subsidiary, Wal-Mart de Mexico, provided extensive details of a bribery campaign it had orchestrated to win market dominance.

The Mexican executive, previously the lawyer in charge of obtaining construction permits, said in emails and follow-up conversations that Wal-Mart de Mexico paid bribes to obtain permits throughout the country in its rush to build stores nationwide, the Times reported.

Wal-Mart's growth in Mexico has been so rapid that one of every five Wal-Mart stores now is in that country. It is Mexico's largest private employer, with 209,000 employees there.

The newspaper said that only after learning of its investigation did Wal-Mart inform the U.S. Justice Department in December 2011 that it had begun an internal investigation into possible violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. Under that law, it is illegal for U.S. corporations and their subsidiaries to bribe foreign officials.

AP

In this Nov. 18, 2011 photo, a man pays at the cash register at a Wal-Mart Superstore in Mexico City.

Wal-Mart, which is based in Bentonville, Ark., said Saturday that it takes compliance with that law very seriously. It also noted that many of the "alleged activities" in the Times article occurred more than six years ago.

"If these allegations are true, it is not a reflection of who we are or what we stand for," spokesman David Tovar said. "We are deeply concerned by these allegations and are working aggressively to determine what happened."

Wal-Mart said its latest, ongoing investigation is being handled by outside lawyers and accountants who are experts with the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. The company also said it has tightened procedures and expanded training in Mexico to ensure compliance with the law.

The Times said its investigation uncovered a lengthy struggle at the highest levels of Wal-Mart, pitting the company's commitment to high moral and ethical standards against its relentless pursuit of growth.

Wal-Mart had sent investigators to Mexico City, where the newspaper report said they quickly discovered evidence that included a paper trail of hundreds of suspect payments totaling more than $24 million.

But according to the Times, top Wal-Mart executives kept quiet about the campaign and were more focused on damage control than on exposing the corruption. Then-CEO H. Lee Scott Jr. reportedly rebuked internal investigators at one meeting for being overly aggressive. Shortly thereafter, the newspaper said, the investigation was turned over to the general counsel for Wal-Mart de Mexico, who himself was alleged to have authorized bribes. He swiftly exonerated his fellow executives.

Nation

Cabbie unlikely celebrity in Colombia sex scandal

CARTAGENA, Colombia (AP)—The Secret Service sex scandal has spawned X-rated jokes, inspired a spicy song set to a local Caribbean beat, and made an unlikely celebrity of a 42-year-old taxi driver who lives with his mother and now seems to be in hiding.

With no other decent leads locally, scoop-hungry journalists fought all week for the favor of Jose Pena, the president of the Hotel Caribe taxi stand who happened to drive home the prostitute who set the scandal in motion.

Fiercely competitive reporters from tabloids to TV networks accused one another of bidding up Pena's fees. He would disappear for hours in the employ of one or another, the spurned reporters redialing him incessantly, filling his voice mail box with entreaties. It was Pena, after all, who led journalists to the whitewashed, two-family house on a quiet cul-de-sac on the edge of town where he said the woman lived with her 9-year-old son. And he described how the woman told him a Secret Service agent refused to pay her full fee and locked his door at the five-star hotel the morning of April 12.

"He's the most important man in the world this week," joked fellow taxi driver William Jimenez.

Zimmerman urged to keep low profile

SANFORD, Fla. (AP)—George Zimmerman is getting out of jail. Now his defense team has to worry about keeping the neighborhood watch volunteer accused of gunning down Trayvon Martin safe on the outside.

Defense attorneys for other high-profile clients who awaited trial on bail had advice for how to protect the man whose shooting of the unarmed black 17-year-old sparked nationwide protests: Get him out of Florida, keep him from going out in public and never leave him alone.

"He clearly puts himself in jeopardy unless he takes precautions," said New York attorney Barry Slotnick, who represented subway shooter Bernhard Goetz in the 1980s.

A half dozen reporters, photographers and cameramen began staking out the Seminole County Jail early Saturday in Sanford, a day after a Florida judge agreed to let Zimmerman out on $150,000 bail. Zimmerman's attorney, Mark O'Mara, said it would take a few days before Zimmerman is released. His family needs time to secure collateral for the bail, Zimmerman needs to be fitted with an electronic monitoring device and O'Mara said he must find a secure location for him.

Zimmerman appeared to be wearing a bulletproof vest under his charcoal suit, and his wife and parents testified by telephone instead of in the courtroom because they said they've been threatened and feared for their safety. His wife, Shellie Zimmerman, testified she had received hate mail.

Circuit Judge Kenneth Lester on Friday indicated that Zimmerman would be allowed to leave Florida if arrangements can be made with law enforcement to have him monitored out of state.

AP

This combo of file photos shows, from left, Bernard Madoff, George Zimmerman and Casey Anthony.

"The initial challenge is going to be first be getting him out of Sanford," said attorney Jose Baez, whose former client, Casey Anthony, endured similar scrutiny when she was released from an Orlando jail last summer after being acquitted of killing her 2-year-old daughter. "Everybody knows where he is getting released from. That is the first problem."

Before he turned himself in to authorities earlier this month to face a second-degree murder charge, members of the New Black Panthers had put out a bounty for Zimmerman's arrest. Protesters nationwide had held rallies carrying signs and chanting "Arrest Zimmerman Now!" Because of the emotions surrounding the case, O'Mara said of Zimmerman's release: "I would much rather do this safely than quickly."

O'Mara said he had several options for where Zimmerman should go, but he wouldn't disclose them. The judge appeared willing to help keep Zimmerman's whereabouts secret in the court file, as O'Mara requested.

Police search for missing 6-year-old Arizona girl

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—The overnight disappearance of a 6-year-old Arizona girl triggered a massive search Saturday by scores of police, FBI agents and a large contingent of deputy U.S. Marshals as officials investigated the possibility that she was kidnapped or just wandered off.

Celis

First-grader Isabel Mercedes Celis's parents last saw her in bed at 11 p.m. Friday, and they discovered her missing at about 8 a.m. Saturday, Tucson police spokeswoman Sgt. Maria Hawke said.

Police searched an area of Tucson around East Broadway Boulevard and Craycroft Road into the evening using street patrols, canines, detectives and a helicopter.

A large number of officers were still searching "pretty much the entire east side" late Saturday night, police communications operator Patrick Olea said.

Friends of the family, meanwhile, fanned out to distribute fliers with a photo of Isabel, KVOA-TV in Tucson reported.

"We're really surprised or shocked that anything like this could happen to our family," the girl's uncle, Justin Mastromarino, told the television station.

Hawke said investigators were looking into all potential scenarios, including the possibility that Isabel got up and wandered out of the home she shares with her parents and two brothers or that she was kidnapped.

Investigators also were examining every door and window of the house for signs of a break-in, Hawke said.

Asia

Afghan exec: Explosives seized and attack stopped

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan security forces have arrested five militants with 10,000 kilograms (22,000 pounds) of explosives that they smuggled in from Pakistan to carry out a massive attack in Kabul, as well as another three suspects allegedly planning to assassinate the vice president, an official said Saturday. The reports of new planned attacks in the Afghan capital came a week after militants said to be part of the Pakistan-based Haqqani group launched coordinated assaults in the heart of Kabul and in three other cities.

U.S. officials say they have stepped up pressure on Islamabad to crack down on the Haqqanis, who specializes in high-profile strikes against well-protected targets.

Three of the five men arrested with the explosives were members of the Pakistani Taliban, while the other two belonged to the Afghan Taliban, National Director for Security spokesman Shafiqullah Tahiry told reporters. He said the men's orders came from militant leaders with ties to Pakistani intelligence. He did not say when the arrests took place, nor what their intended target was.

Tahiry said the seized explosives were packed in 400 bags and hidden under potatoes loaded in a truck with Pakistani license plates.

The men confessed that they "had planned to carry out a terrorist attack in a key point in Kabul city," Tahiry said.

He provided a DVD showing images of the truck and the recorded confessions of the men, but did not provide other proof to back up the claims.

He said that the three Pakistani members of the group picked up the explosives just outside the Pakistani city of Peshawar, and were under the orders of two local Taliban leaders named Noor Afzal and Mohammad Omar, who Tahiry said had ties with the country's Inter-Services Intelligence agency, or ISI.

Japan to forgive $3.7B of Myanmar's debt

TOKYO (AP)—Japan said Saturday it will forgive about 300 billion yen ($3.7 billion) of Myanmar's debt and resume development aid as a way to support the country's democratic and economic reforms.

The government made the announcement after a meeting between Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda and Myanmar President Thein Sein following a summit with leaders from the five nations of the Mekong River region.

Myanmar's military junta last year handed power to a nominally civilian government that has surprised the world with a series of sweeping political and economic reforms, including releasing prominent political prisoners and allowing democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi to contest recent parliamentary by-elections.

The Japanese government said in a statement that it will cancel 127.4 billion yen in loans due after April 2003. It will also forgive 176.1 billion yen in overdue charges accumulated over the past two decades after one year's time as the two countries jointly monitor reforms.

Japan does not have sanctions on Myanmar, although it cut most government aid in 2003 after Suu Kyi was put under house arrest, which ended last November. Japan was Myanmar's largest aid donor until 2003 and has continued small amounts of humanitarian grass-roots aid in health and education.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Powerful quake strikes off eastern Indonesia

MANOKWARI, Indonesia (AP)—A powerful earthquake hit waters off eastern Indonesia on Saturday, sending residents and school children running into the streets in panic. There were no reports of injuries or serious damage and no tsunami warning was issued. The U.S. Geological Survey said the 6.6-magnitude quake hit 50 miles (83 kilometers) off Papua province. It was centered just 18 miles (30 kilometers) beneath the ocean floor. Children in the city of Manokwari, closest to the epicenter, ran from their schools screaming. Streets also filled with those escaping shaking houses and stores.

11 caned in Indonesia's Aceh province

LANGSA, Indonesia (AP)—Authorities in Indonesia say 10 men and a woman have been publicly caned for gambling and immoral behavior under Islamic law in conservative Aceh province. Prosecutor's office official Putra Masduri said nine people convicted of gambling were caned four to 12 times. He said Saturday that two others—a man and woman—were caned nine times after being found naked together by local residents. All were beaten Friday in front of dozens of people at a field in Langsa, the capital of East Aceh district, after being tried by the local Shariah Court.

Chinese villagers riot over coal mine, kill 1 cop

BEIJING (AP)—A Chinese city government says villagers with sickles and clubs protesting against mining activities in the southwest attacked police, killing one officer and injuring 15 others. The Lijiang city government in Yunnan province said late Friday that the violence erupted on Wednesday as villagers were gathered at a township government office to express concern that activities at a coal mine could trigger geological disasters. The city government says in a statement posted on the provincial news portal that the villagers had camped out for several days with luggage and cooking utensils and had threatened officials and damaged government property.

Sherpa on Everest expedition dies in Nepal

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—A government official in Nepal says that a Sherpa who was guiding a group of climbers on an Everest expedition has fallen into a crevasse and died. Tilak Pandey of the Ministry of Tourism and Mountaineering says that Namgyal Tshering Sherpa died on Saturday. Few other details were immediately available. Sherpa had scaled the peak twice before. He is the second guide to die while climbing Everest in this year's spring climbing season. Climbers generally try to scale Everest in May. On Wednesday, experienced climber Karsang Namgyal died from altitude sickness.

Opposition strike cripples Bangladesh's capital

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Schools and businesses are shut in Bangladesh's capital as opposition parties enforce a daylong general strike across the South Asian nation. An 18-party opposition alliance is enforcing the strike to urge the government to find a regional opposition leader who went missing on Tuesday. Security officials cordoned off the headquarters of the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party on Sunday, but the first few hours of the strike were largely peaceful. Traffic on the usually clogged streets of the capital, Dhaka, was thin amid tight security, with several thousand police deployed across the city of 10 million people.

World

Activists: Syrian troops attack capital's suburb

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian troops stormed and shelled districts in a suburb of the capital Damascus Sunday, activists said, a day after the Security Council voted to expand the number of U.N. truce monitors to 300 members in hopes of salvaging an international peace plan marred by continued fighting between the military and opposition rebels.

An eight-member team is already on the ground in Syria, and has visited flashpoints of the 13-month-long conflict since Thursday. Fighting generally stops when they are present, but there has been a steady stream of reports of violence from areas where they have not yet gone.

Douma-based activist Mohammed Saeed said two people were killed by indiscriminate firing in the sprawling district, the scene of intense clashes between rebels and security forces before a cease-fire went into effect more than a week ago.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based opposition group with a network of activists on the ground, confirmed the deaths. It reported that a third person was killed overnight in the village of Hteita outside Damascus when troops opened fire from a checkpoint.

It was not immediately clear what prompted the attack on Douma. Saeed said loud explosions that shook the city early Sunday caused panic among residents, some of whom used mosque loudspeakers to urge people to take cover in basements and in lower floors of apartment buildings.

AP

An Anti-Syrian regime protester carries his son and chant slogans against Syrian President Bashar Assad during a demonstration after Friday prayers in Beirut, Lebanon, Friday, April 6, 2012.

"This U.N. observers thing is a big joke," Saeed said. "Shelling stops and tanks are hidden when they visit somewhere, and when they leave, shelling resumes."

His comments reflects widespread lack of faith among many Syrians in the U.N. peace plan. More than 9,000 people have been killed since March 2011 when the uprising against President Bashar Assad began, according to the U.N.

The Security Council approved a resolution Saturday expanding the U.N. cease-fire observer mission from 30 to 300 members, initially for 90 days. The expanded force is meant to shore up a cease-fire that officially took effect 10 days ago, but has failed to halt violence.

U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon has accused Assad of violating the truce, and said Saturday that "the gross violations of the fundamental rights of the Syrian people must stop at once." Rebel fighters have also kept up attacks.

The eight-member advance team has visited the Damascus suburb of Arbeen, the southern province of Daraa, and the battered opposition stronghold of Homs. The monitors have not visited Douma yet.

WORLD BRIEFS

Polls open in France for presidential election

PARIS (AP)—Voting began Sunday in France in President Nicolas Sarkozy's uncertain bid for re-election, with polls showing that many French are dissatisfied with his response to concerns about the economy and jobs. The voting will winnow down a list of 10 candidates from across the political spectrum to two finalists for the decisive runoff on May 6, which will set a course for the next five years in this pillar of the European Union. Polls for months have showed that the conservative Sarkozy—who has been relatively unpopular for months, if not years—and Francois Hollande, a Socialist, are likely to make the cut. Sarkozy, defending his record on the campaign trail, has repeatedly pointed to a tough economic climate and debt troubles across Europe—not just in France. But with turnout a looming question, surprises could await among candidates including far-right nationalist Marine Le Pen, Communist-backed firebrand Jean-Luc Melenchon or centrist Francois Bayrou.

Hugo Chavez's weeklong silence spurs uncertainty

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has been out of sight for a week, speaking only through Twitter messages and written statements while undergoing cancer treatment in Cuba. The lack of any appearances on television has Venezuelans wondering about what his unusual silence might say about his struggle with cancer, and whether Chavez may be coping with a particularly tough phase of radiation therapy. More than 30 messages have appeared on Chavez's Twitter account since he left for Cuba on April 14. He has cheered on supporters with slogans such as "Let's continue building socialism!" In others, he has praised his military commanders, announced funding for local governments and vowed to survive and win re-election in October. But he has seldom mentioned his cancer treatment. National Assembly President Diosdado Cabello reiterated on Friday that Chavez is expected to return to Venezuela soon.

Iran says it is building copy of captured US drone

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—A senior Iranian commander says the country has reverse-engineered an American spy drone captured by Tehran's armed forces last year and has begun building a copy. Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, who is chief of the aerospace division of the powerful Revolutionary Guards, was quoted Sunday by the semi-official Mehr news agency as saying that experts are also recovering data from the U.S. RQ-170 Sentinel captured in December in eastern Iran. U.S. officials have acknowledged losing the drone. They have said Iran will find it hard to exploit any data and technology aboard it because of measures taken to limit the intelligence value of drones operating over hostile territory.

Life & Style

Unauthorized biography spills Simon Cowell secrets

LONDON (AP)—He gets colonic irrigations, Botox injections and vitamin drips, and insists on black toilet paper in his home.

A revealing new biography offers intimate—some might say too intimate—details about Simon Cowell, along with a portrait of the entertainment mogul's savvy business side.

"Sweet Revenge: The Intimate Life of Simon Cowell" is written by British journalist and biographer Tom Bower, whose previous subjects include former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, jailed media mogul Conrad Black and ex-Harrods owner Mohammad al-Fayed.

His latest portrait of power centers on the tanned and brushcut Cowell, 52, who has gained fame in both Britain and North America as producer and an acerbic judge on TV talent shows including "The X Factor" and "America's Got Talent."

Bower says he became fascinated by the story of a middle-aged music producer who struck gold by turning the old-fashioned talent contest into a slick 21st-century phenomenon—and in the process earned a fortune estimated at 200 million pounds ($320 million) by the Sunday Times Rich List.

The book paints a picture of a man who struggled for years in the music business, spurred on to success out of a desire to prove his detractors wrong.

"He had 20 years—more than 20 years—of humiliation," Bower said. "At school he was a total failure and as a music producer he was a total failure. "But what he did have was charm and an ability to understand the music business because of all this failure."

"Sweet Revenge," published in the U.S. by Ballantine Books on Tuesday, is billed as the first book about Cowell written with the mogul's participation—though not his authorization. Bower spent many hours with Cowell aboard his private jet, at his Los Angeles home and on his yacht in the south of France and the Caribbean.

But he says Cowell told some friends and associates not to talk to him. Writing the book became "a cat and mouse game" between him and his subject.

"He clearly wanted his story told properly, but there are parts he didn't want told and it was up to me to find out about them," Bower said.

AP

In this Wednesday, May 26, 2010 file photo British entertainment mogul Simon Cowell arrives at the "American Idol" finale in Los Angeles, US.

Cowell has stressed that the book was not written with his approval, tweeting: "This book is not written by me. It is unauthorized. The writer is Tom Bower."

Cowell can't have enjoyed the revelations in The Sun tabloid, which has been serializing the more salacious bits of Bower's book.

Among the details: Cowell gets regular colonic irrigations because "it's so cleansing—and it makes my eyes shine brighter." He is put on a drip of vitamins and nutrients for a half hour each week.

He's not gay, despite longstanding rumors. The book reveals bedroom secrets including a brief affair with former "X Factor" judge Danii Minogue. But Bower says that Cowell isn't interested in serious relationships.

"He is only interested in women who are uninhibited and uncomplicated," Bower said. "He is not interested in relationships. He's a schoolboy."

He is, however, generous. Bower says Cowell gave his ex-fiance Mezhgan Hussainy, a makeup artist on "American Idol," a $5 million Beverly Hills house as a parting gift. Most of his exes have refrained from spilling the beans in the media.

While Britain's tabloids have focused on Cowell's sex life, Bower is more interested in the story of money and power, of "business rivalry and the skullduggery."

At the heart of the book is Cowell's feud with fellow svengali and former Spice Girls manager Simon Fuller. The pair fell out over the 2001 British musical talent-show, "Pop Idol," progenitor of "American Idol." Fuller was listed as creator of the show despite what Cowell said was a verbal agreement to split the credit.

A legal battle between the two men was settled out of court, with Fuller getting the creator credit for "Idol"—though Bower says he found "overwhelming" evidence that Cowell played a vital role.

Bower said Cowell was "naive and humiliated by Fuller's dexterity."

"He didn't understand the importance of owning a format," Bower said. "He learnt his lesson."

He said Cowell became "incensed" by the "created by Simon Fuller" credit on "Pop Idol" and "American Idol," and vowed to create his own rival show.

The result was singing competition "X Factor," which had its debut in Britain in 2004 and in the U.S. last fall. Cowell also created "Britain's Got Talent" and executive produces its U.S. spinoff, "America's got Talent."

Cowell's response to the book, published in Britain on Friday, is so far unknown.

Publicist Max Clifford—who says Cowell pays him hundreds of thousands of dollars a year to keep stories out of the press—said he had advised Cowell not to speak to Bower, because it would undo years of carefully protected privacy.

"He knows it was a mistake," Clifford said.

"For Simon, who has protected his privacy and never, ever spoken about his relationships with anybody, to suddenly be quoted about this, that and the other is to me very damaging.

"Having created an image that's been hugely successful, to see him damage it like that is sad and disappointing," Clifford said.

Bower, though, thinks the book's portrait of Cowell is fairly positive.

While Bower has been openly hostile to some of his previous subjects—he called Gordon Brown a ruthless bully and Conrad Black a crook—he has a soft spot for Cowell.

"He's not a crook," Bower said. "So far he hasn't sued me. And it was good fun.

"He doesn't sit on his laurels. That's what's endearing about him. Although he is vain, he is a perfectionist and a professional—and he understands the business better than most."

'Hunger Games' fever makes archery cool for kids

NEW YORK (AP)—In schools and backyards, for their birthdays and out with their dads, kids are gaga for archery four weeks into the box office run of "The Hunger Games" and less than 100 days before the London Olympics.

"All of a sudden sales of bows have, like, tripled," said Paul Haines, a salesman at the Ramsey Outdoor store in Paramus, N.J.

A manager there made a sign for the hunting department: "Quality bows for serious archers and girls who saw the movie," he said.

Archery ranges around the country have enjoyed a steady uptick among kids of both sexes since the movie began cleaning up at the box office March 23, though heroine Katniss—a deadly shot with an arrow—seems to resonate more with girls.

"Katniss is so inspiring," said Gabby Lee, who asked for archery lessons for her 12th birthday in February after reading the wildly popular book trilogy by Suzanne Collins.

"I'm not very sportsy," she offers, but now she belongs to a youth archery league near her Hasbrouck Heights, N.J., home. "It feels really good because I'm usually the girl who sits and reads."

While some young archers have been doing it for years, motivated by generations of hunters in their families, the parents of others love it for its focus, independence and because they, too, have kids not drawn to more typical team or contact sports.

At 7, Christa Mattessich is too young for the gruesome dystopian world that thrusts 16-year-old Katniss and her fellow child tributes into the arena for a battle to the death, a battle Katniss wins thanks to the archery skills she honed while hunting game in the woods of her native District 12.

But Christa loves archery just as much and has been shooting for about two years at the same range as Gabby, Targeteers Archery in Saddle Brook, N.J., said dad Anthony Mattessich in Oakland.

"I'm an avid bow hunter," he said. "At her age, with other sports, they're just running with each other and chasing a ball, then the ice cream truck comes and that's that. For archery, they're a little bit more dedicated."

Abbey Fitzpatrick in Sandy Creek, N.Y., turned 11 on April 10. She also asked for and received her own bow and arrows for her birthday. "It's black. It really looks like Katniss's bow," Abbey said. "She was so brave and very heroic in the games."

Like more than 2 million kids in nearly every state and several other countries, Abbey did archery in gym class this year as part of the decade-old National Archery in the Schools Program that trains teachers in the sport and offers discounts on equipment.

"There's a lot of buzz among young people about archery right now. They want to shoot bows and arrows so badly they're willing to follow the rules," said Roy Grimes, the organization's president.

In Hartland, Mich., enthusiast Robert Jellison teaches seventh-grade science and has incorporated archery through NASP into his lessons on kinetic and potential energy, eye-hand coordination and the properties of pulleys and levers.

Jellison was invited in March with some of his students to perform a demonstration at the local library as part of a "Hunger Games" reading.

"Some of the kids there went out that day and signed up for archery," he said. "A lot of people look at archery as, `Oh, you know, is it a real sport?' All of a sudden there's all this excitement."

Bobbi Bowles owns archery shop K.C.'s Outdoors with her husband in Spicewood, Texas, outside Austin. Sales of equipment have doubled in the last few weeks, she said, and they're adding beginner classes to accommodate more new recruits young and older.

At the Austin Archery Club, "The movie is sending a lot of people our way who are interested in archery, the crossbow and survival skills," said a director, Roy Wenmohs. "At a recent tournament we had about 10 young people, from ages 10 to 15," he said. "About half were new. Last year we had three."

AP

In this April 13, 2012 photo, Nicole Donzella of Fair Lawn, N.J., 15, participates in the youth archery league at Targeteers Archery in Saddle Brook.

Games of a different sort are hoping for a "Hunger Games" bump come July, though kids in North America looking to catch Olympic archery will likely be sleeping during live competition.

"We're thrilled with the awareness and the excitement that `The Hunger Games' has brought to the sport of archery," said Denise Parker, CEO of USA Archery, the U.S. training and selection body for the Olympics, Paralympics, Pan American Games and other world events.

"We're already receiving feedback from our youth clubs that interest in archery programs in their areas is up significantly," she said.

Alexis Fleming, 14, in Manor, Pa., has Olympic dreams. She shot last fall as part of the Junior Olympic Archery Development program after first picking up a bow through 4H.

"I like the fact you can ignore the world around you and just focus on where the arrow is going to go," she said.

Nicole Donzella, 15, may not be Olympic bound, but she knows her way around a bull's-eye and plans to DVR archery from London.

Her dad, hunter Bart Donzella, got her started in the sport at age 5, and later her younger sister, leaving "girly girl things" to their mother while he bonded with them through kayaking and other outdoor activities.

"I had a little mini-bow. It was really cute. I shot from five yards back then," Nicole said.

Now up to 20 yards with a top score of 298 out of 300, she shoots weekly in the same youth league as Gabby at Targeteers in northern New Jersey.

"I like that it's an individual sport but at the same time there's other people around you so you can still socialize," said Nicole, from nearby Fair Lawn. "It's the only thing I'm good at and it's really nice to do with my dad."

Louis-Dreyfus is 1 heartbeat away in HBO comedy

NEW YORK (AP)—One of the ways Julia Louis-Dreyfus prepared for her role as Vice President Selina Meyer in the new HBO comedy "Veep" was to study how to answer questions in a public setting by not really answering them.

She watched a lot of C-SPAN.

"Some politicians are better at it than others," she said. "It's a performance. Particularly these days. People don't really answer questions. In this culture of sound bites and 24-hour news ... people are careful about how they speak."

Out of the public eye, the fictional vice president feels free to speak. A lot. The central theme of the comedy, created by Armando Iannucci and debuting Sunday at 10 p.m., is letting people within the Washington power structure say what they're really thinking, in all its cynical glory.

In one episode, Meyer is encouraged to circulate at a reception, only to find that most of the

AP

In this Oct. 4, 2011, photo provided by HBO, actress Julia Louis-Dreyfus stars in the new HBO series "Veep."

people had already left— one of the many little indignities a vice president faces every day.

"How do I mingle with so few people?" she complains to her staff. "Did Simon mingle with Garfunkel?"

Louis-Dreyfus has a strong track record with the last characters she has chosen to portray on television, winning Emmys as Elaine in "Seinfeld" and the "old" Christine in "The New Adventures of Old Christine." That alone makes Selina Meyer worthy of notice.

The actress grew up in the Washington area, familiar with the political power structure, and sought out the script when she heard about the Meyer role. She thought it would be fascinating to play a character so close to power yet ultimately powerless. The show's tag line, on all the posters, is, "the buck stops somewhere near here."

"I love my character," she said. "I love her narcissism, I love her rage, I love her ambition and I love the fact that she's a political animal."

"Veep" is essentially a non-political show about a political world, a workplace comedy where the work is supposedly looking out for the nation's interests. You never learn Meyer's political party. You'll never see the president, although a running gag whenever Meyer returns to the office is asking the receptionist, "Did the president call?"

The show revels, maybe a bit too much, in the freedoms afforded by pay cable, with plenty of salty language and situations. Safe to say no episode of "The West Wing" ended with the vice president stricken with diarrhea and carried out of a frozen yogurt shop to her limousine.

Everything is a political calculation. When Meyer considers getting a dog, an aide says, "maybe we should get a rescue dog. It will play great." Meyer mulls whether to contact the National Weather Service to remove "Selina" from next year's list of hurricane names. Even the frozen yogurt flavor is debated.

Louis-Dreyfus spoke with three vice presidents to research her role, along with aides and journalists. She declines to say if anything specific in the show comes from a real vice presidential experience.

Chaz Bono, Josh Hutcherson win GLAAD Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Chaz Bono picked up a pair of trophies at the GLAAD Media Awards.

The 43-year-old transgender activist and author was honored with the outstanding documentary prize and Stephen F. Kolzak Award at the 23rd annual Media Awards for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. Bono won along with directors Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato for "Becoming Chaz," the OWN documentary that chronicled his gender transition.

Bono, who was the first-ever transgender contestant on ABC's "Dancing with the Stars" last year, was also given the Stephen F. Kolzak Award, which is given by GLAAD to a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender member of the entertainment community. Past winners have included Ellen DeGeneres, Rufus Wainwright, Wanda Sykes, John Waters and Melissa Etheridge.

Other honorees at Saturday night's `s ceremony at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel in downtown Los Angeles were ABC's "Modern Family" for comedy series, Focus Features drama "Beginners" starring Ewan McGregor and supporting actor Oscar winner Christopher Plummer for wide-release film, and Lifetime's "Drop Dead Diva" and TV Land's "Hot in Cleveland" in a tie for individual TV episode.

"The Hunger Games" star Josh Hutcherson won the Vanguard Award, which lauds efforts to increase visibility and understanding of the gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender community. Earlier this year, he began working with the anti-bullying campaign Straight But Not Narrow. The 19-year-old actor is the youngest recipient to ever win the Vanguard Award.

The awards salute fair, accurate and inclusive representation of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and the issues that affect their lives in the media. Other winners from among this year's 35 categories were previously honored at a March ceremony in New York, while the remainder will be presented at a San Francisco ceremony in June.

'American Idol' Taylor Hicks to launch Vegas show

LAS VEGAS (AP)—"American Idol" Season 5 winner Taylor Hicks is getting his own short-term show on the Las Vegas Strip.

Hicks

Casino officials announced the Alabama native will headline an eight-week show at Bally's Las Vegas beginning June 26.

The singer's show in Las Vegas is a return to where his winning run began in 2005. Hicks had been in New Orleans the night before Hurricane Katrina struck and was given a free airplane voucher when his flight was cancelled.

He used the voucher to fly to Las Vegas, where he auditioned for "American Idol" and ultimately won over viewers with his renditions of southern soul, R&B, country and blues songs.

He's the first "American Idol" winner or finalist to secure a Las Vegas residency.

MOVIE SCORES

How the critics rated the new movies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Zac Efron isn't finding much luck with the critics as his latest film, "The Lucky One," opens to pretty poor reviews.

In the latest adaptation of a Nicholas Sparks romance novel, Efron stars as U.S. Marine sergeant who tracks down a beautiful blonde (Taylor Schilling) whose photograph he believes saved his life in Iraq. AP Movie Critic Christy Lemire didn't hate it, though, giving the film two and a half stars out of four. "In the hands of `Shine' director Scott Hicks, it does what it needs to do to please its target audience with a certain tasteful artfulness and the comforting familiarity of a 1950s melodrama," she wrote.

Also opening nationwide is the ensemble comedy "Think Like a Man," starring Michael Ealy, Taraji P. Henson, Meagan Good and Kevin Hart as singles caught in the battle of the sexes. Lemire also gave this one two and a half stars, saying: "What is essentially a shameless and overlong infomercial for Steve Harvey's

AP

In this film image released by Warner Bros, Taylor Schilling, left, and Zac Efron are shown in a scene from "The Lucky One."

dating advice book becomes more tolerable and even enjoyable at times with the help of an attractive, likable cast."

Here's a look at how these movies and others fared on the top review websites as of Friday afternoon. Each score is the percentage of positive reviews for the film:

■ "Marley": Metacritic, 82; Movie Review Intelligence, 83; Rotten Tomatoes, 94. Average: 86.3.

■ "Chimpanzee": Metacritic, 58; Movie Review Intelligence, 62.4; Rotten Tomatoes, 75. Average: 65.1.

■ "Think Like a Man": Metacritic, 53; Movie Review Intelligence, 59.4; Rotten Tomatoes, 52. Average: 54.8.

■ "The Lucky One": Metacritic, 38; Movie Review Intelligence, 43.2; Rotten Tomatoes, 22. Average: 34.4.

■ "Darling Companion": Metacritic, 38; Movie Review Intelligence, 36.4; Rotten Tomatoes, 18. Average: 30.8.

Daughter's law school loans weigh on parents' conscience

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I are 50-year-old professionals who have paid every penny of the cost for our two daughters' four-year college educations. Our oldest, "Lana," went on to law school and has incurred well in excess of $100,000 in law school loan debt. She has struggled to find a job as an attorney, and I'm no longer sure she still wants to practice law. Lana is married to a medical student who also has significant student loan debt.

Two nights ago I made the mistake of telling Lana that her mother and I would help her pay off her student loans. I regret having opened my mouth. She and her husband spend their money on frivolous luxuries and are not responsible financially.

My wife and I live frugally. We withdrew money from our retirement accounts to help fund our daughters' college educations. We now need to increase our retirement contributions and pay for maintenance and repairs to our home that we delayed while paying for their tuition.

Although we have always helped our children financially, we can no longer afford to trade our future financial security and our present standard of living to support them. I would appreciate some advice. This may be an issue affecting a lot of parents at this time.

SPOKE TOO SOON IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR SPOKE TOO SOON: Before making any promises to your daughter, you should have reviewed your retirement plans with your financial adviser. It's still not too late to do that, and once you do you should immediately inform Lana that, upon review, you now realize that giving her more money will compromise your plans for retirement.

You should also explain that you have deferred important repairs to your home because the money was directed instead to her education. The problem with deferring maintenance is it usually costs more than if the problems had been dealt with promptly, which is why you are, regrettably, unable to bail her out of her student loans. It may be the wake-up call Lana needs that it's time to assume her own responsibilities.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My mom and I have been travel agents for 15 years. My cousin, whom I have always been close to, asked to join our business multiple times over the past few years and we always said yes.

A few months ago I learned that she went behind our backs and started her own travel agency. When I confronted her about hiding it from us, she denied it. Then one day I went over to her new office. She said she hadn't wanted to hurt our feelings, but she already has. She says I'm being "irrational" for not supporting her, but I think she was wrong for not joining us and going off on her own. Do you think our relationship can be saved?

FAMILY MATTERS IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR FAMILY MATTERS: Your cousin should have been forthright about starting her own business instead of hiding it. It is not "irrational" to feel hurt that she didn't level with you, and that was her mistake.

However, this is a free country, and your cousin had a right to change her mind about joining your business. Your relationship can be fixed as long as you and your mother accept that she had a right to go into business for herself if she wished, and refrain from discussing business when you're together.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

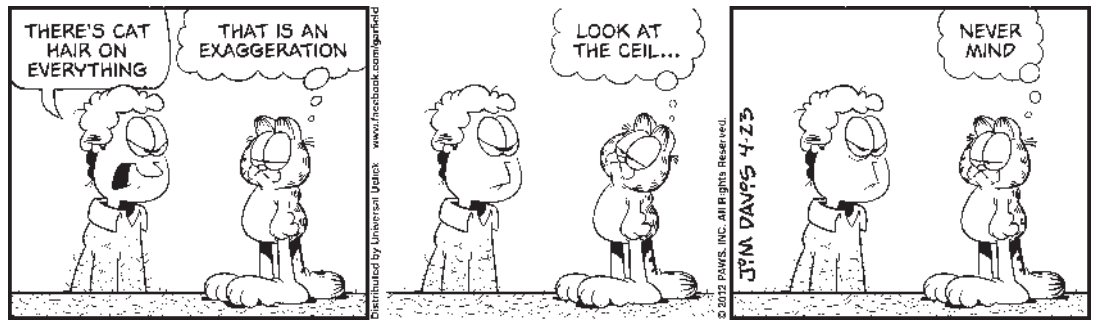
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

DONT MAKE ME GO TO SCHOOL! PLEASE DONT MAKE ME! HELP!
LEGGO! ON! STOP! YOU DONT UNDERSTAND! MY HOROSCOPE SAYS I'M IRRESISTIBLE TO GIRLS TODAY! I'M TOO POPULAR! I'M GOING TO GET BIG DIVIDENDS! AUGGHHH!
WHAT IF SUSIE KISSES ME?! I DONT WANT ROMANCE! I HATE SUSIE! CALL ME IN SICK! HELP!
DEAR, I GOT HIM! GRAB HIS FEET WHILE I PRY HIS FINGERS LOOSE!
PUH-LEEZE!!
I WONDER WHAT IT WOULD COST TO RENT A PLACE IN TOWN.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


THERE'S CAT HAIR ON EVERYTHING
THAT IS AN EXAGGERATION
LOOK AT THE CEIL...
NEVER MIND
JIM DAVIS 4-23
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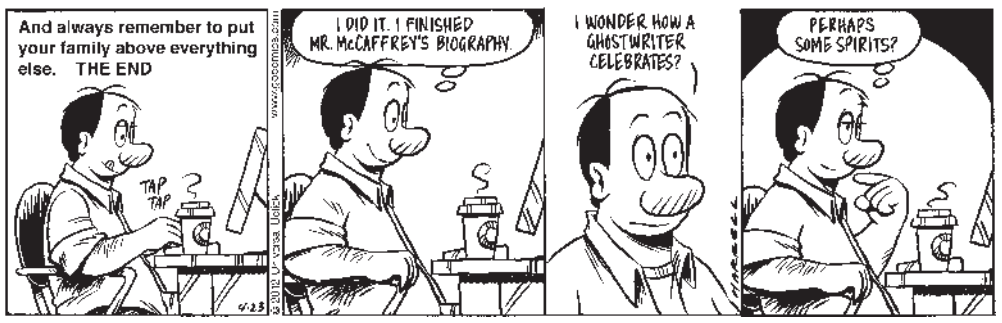
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


And always remember to put your family above everything else. THE END
TAP TAP
I DID IT. I FINISHED MR. McCAFFREY'S BIOGRAPHY.
I WONDER HOW A GHOSTWRITER CELEBRATES?
PERHAPS SOME SPIRITS?
www.gocomics.com
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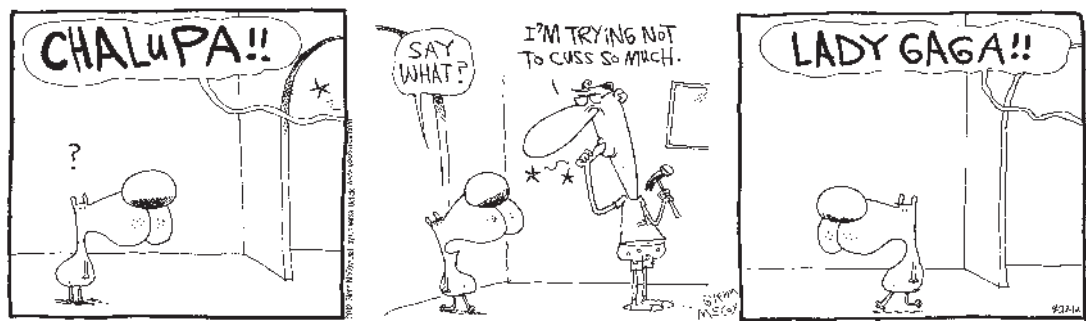
4-23

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Category
4 Automobile
7 Wield a cleaver
11 Carry on
13 One's years
14 Carry on
15 Eastern potentate
16 Scrooge's cry
17 Open slightly
18 Beelzebub
20 Grate
22 Tiny veggie
24 Cafe
28 Frisbee material
32 Trembled
33 Apiece
34 One of the Seven Dwarfs
36 Smell
37 Group character
39 Missile launcher
41 Mexican cactus
43 Humor
44 Newcomer
46 Indiana's state flower
50 Not working
53 The 50 States (Abbr.)
55 Perlman of "Cheers"
56 Layer
57 Thickness
58 Thailand, once
59 Health resorts
60 Pirouette pivot
61 Chances, for short

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1 Angers
2 Dalai —
3 Make with yarn
4 Taxi
5 Culture medium
6 Detox location
7 Some casino patrons
8 Muslim pilgrimage (Var.)
9 Eggs
10 Apiece
12 They use clay pigeons
19 Trawler need
21 Bro's counterpart
23 Help
25 Agenda heading
26 Chess piece
27 Gumbo ingredient
28 Sound from a chick
29 Tardy
30 Sore
31 Corn on the —
35 Crow's call
38 Pigpen
40 Goose egg
42 Burst, volcano-style
45 Norway's capital
47 Columbus' home
48 Tide type
49 Sweet potatoes' kin
50 "— only a paper moon, ..."
51 Chips' go-with
52 Meadow
54 Sailor's assent

Solution time: 24 mins.

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Saturday's answer 4-23

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STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jaime King, 33; Melina Kanakaredes, 45; George Lopez, 51; Valerie Bertinelli, 52.

Happy Birthday: Uncertainty will cloud your decisions if you don't ask questions and discuss possibilities. The more upfront you are about your goals, the easier it will be to stay on track. Exercise your right to an opinion, and be wary of unpredictable or impulsive people. Take a practical approach and choose quality over quantity. Your numbers are 3, 15, 18, 23, 26, 31, 40.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't get flustered if someone tries to bully you. Stand your ground and use experience to outsmart and outmaneuver anyone who stands in your way. Your courage and knowledge will far surpass anyone you encounter. Face a challenge head-on. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Use your imagination and delve into projects that are unusual or geared toward helping others, but don't let anyone take advantage of you emotionally. If you are clear about what you are willing to contribute, you will stay in control. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): An empty promise will cost you. Unless you have something in writing, you must be practical and act on what you know is factual. There will be greater returns if you invest in the skills, talents and services you have to offer. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Refrain from changing your mind. You'll be viewed as unpredictable if you cannot make a decision and stick to it. Focus on what you can do to solve problems instead of creating more. A short business trip will bring high returns. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't wait for someone else to do the work. If you want to make an impression, you have to be the one responsible for what gets done. "Too little, too late" will be what stands between you and your dreams, hopes and wishes. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Problems regarding work and employment will develop if you appear to be unstable and emotional about the changes going on around you. Concentrate on doing the best job possible and keeping your distance from gossips and rumormongers. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Let your intuition guide you when it comes to the way you look and the people you want to spend time with. Both love and physical looks will play important roles in the changes that take place now. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Careful who you trust with your money, possessions or assets. You have to take responsibility for whatever you have or are trying to obtain. How you handle your obligations will influence your personal and professional position. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Work on your partnerships. Make sure that everyone you are dealing with is happy or at least understands your situation. Love is in the stars, and a change in your personal lifestyle and living arrangements looks positive. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't base your decisions on what you hear secondhand. Someone will provide incorrect information, which can lead to an unwise choice if you act too quickly. Concentrate on home, your investments and how you can protect what you have accumulated. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Trust in your own judgment, not what someone else says or does. Avoid anyone who is overindulgent or boasting. Stabilize a relationship that means a lot to you by making a commitment or promise to accommodate a request being made. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): An insightful view regarding work and money concerns will help you make a decision. Look for a way to incorporate what you've done in the past into what's expected of you now, and you will save time and money. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are dedicated, loyal and hard-working. You are powerful, patient and prudent.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

4					1			6
	5			8			3	
		2	5			1		
6			8		7	3		
	7		9		3		4	
		3	2		6			8
		7			4	2		
	4			2			9	
9			3					1

Difficulty Level ★ 4/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

2	8	6	7	9	1	5	4	3
1	9	3	2	4	5	8	6	7
5	7	4	6	8	3	1	2	9
3	4	2	5	1	6	7	9	8
9	5	8	4	7	2	3	1	6
6	1	7	8	3	9	4	5	2
4	3	1	9	6	7	2	8	5
7	6	5	1	2	8	9	3	4
8	2	9	3	5	4	6	7	1

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 4/21

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LAKE COMO, ITALY Solution: 9 letters

S	W	H	W	T	A	N	N	E	R	A	V	O	R	G
E	I	I	I	O	O	L	E	C	C	O	I	L	O	N
R	N	L	T	K	R	U	D	O	C	O	L	I	C	O
B	D	L	K	A	I	R	R	V	M	A	L	V	K	L
E	S	S	S	F	L	N	A	B	I	L	A	E	P	D
L	U	S	P	L	A	Y	G	N	I	E	O	N	A	C
L	R	A	A	A	K	C	O	M	O	K	W	D	R	A
O	F	I	S	R	E	S	T	A	O	B	I	S	K	T
N	I	L	E	I	S	E	M	O	H	Ⓢ	F	N	S	H
I	N	I	I	O	M	O	U	D	R	Ⓦ	O	W	G	E
A	G	N	R	O	A	D	E	E	P	Ⓘ	R	O	R	D
R	E	G	R	O	V	E	S	A	R	Ⓜ	E	T	A	R
T	F	O	E	I	M	S	U	C	A	L	S	S	P	A
V	A	E	F	I	L	A	M	E	P	A	T	H	E	L
M	C	L	I	M	B	I	N	G	E	R	O	H	S	R

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Last Saturday's Answer: Rainy Jane

To order THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 or 35 send $8.95 each ($10 foreign/Canada) to Universal Uclick, PO Box 8710, Kansas City, MO 64114-0710. Or order 2 to 5 books at $7 per book (foreign/Canada $9 per book) by credit card at 1-800-642-6480. Or order online at puzzles.com (Volumes 24 & 25 sold out).

CLASSIFIED ADS

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Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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Land: 1,192 sq.m.
Building: 5,170 sq. ft. (semi-concrete)
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Located in Chalan Kanoa. Call 288-4916 or 287-0717

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Wanted (1) Male and (1) Female Caregiver. Call 285-8309 or 322-1947 and Look for Letty.

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Need cash fast??? We want to buy your OnePass miles or Skymiles!!! Call 888-2205.

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- **Beachside, Oleai:** Stand alone professional office / house-office or restaurant bar location along Beach Road, 1,800 sq. ft., with good parking, back up generator and beach access. Asking: $1,200.00/mo.
- **San Jose:** Former SDA Preschool building. Great location. Good condition with fenced yard. Asking: $1,000.00/mo.

HOUSE FOR RENT

- **San Jose House:** 5-bedroom and 2-bathroom house in San Jose. Good location near Dolphin Wholesale and San Jose Mart. Asking: $1,000.00/mo.

APARTMENT FOR RENT

- **ANAKS Condominium:** 2 units available. 2-Bedroom, 1 ½-Bathroom. Ocean view. Asking: $900.00/mo. each.

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- **Vacant land in Tinian:** Available for farming or development. Close to San Jose.
  - i. Lot 031 T 10: 13,118 sq. m., Lot 031 T 11: 13,123 sq. m., Lot 031 T 12: 1,054 sq. m., and Lot 031 T 13: 1,048 sq. m. (4 lots) Asking: $60,000.00
  - ii. Lot 114 T 14: 4,185 sq. m. Asking: $8,000.00
  - iii. Lot 114 T 05: 25,000 sq. m. Asking: $50,000.00
  - iv. Lot 102 T 21: 3,643 sq. m. Asking: $7,500.00
  - v. Lot 118 T 04: 1,190 sq. m. Asking: $5,000.00
- **Vacant land in Capitol Hill:** 4,479 sq. m. available, zoned for residential purposes. Easement not presently open. Asking: $10,000.00
- **Vacant land on San Roque Beachfront:** Ideal for a small single house. Asking: $35,000.00

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Open Date: April 16, 2012 **Close Date:** April 23, 2012
Position: (1) Accountant **Salary:** $6.00 per hour

Job Qualification: Bachelors Degree / College Graduated / (2) Years Experience.

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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE SERVICES GROUP, INC., Plaintiff, -v- **LUCIA BORJA PALACIOS,** Defendant.	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0131** **NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 10, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 218-2-5, situated in As Teo, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a corner which is designated as Corner No. 1, having plane rectangular coordinates of 53,203.65 meters north and 66,755.91 meters east of the Mariana Islands district coordinate system of 1956.

Thence N 13° 35′ 00″, 13.18 meters to Corner 3;
Thence S 80° 13 00″ E, 65.95 meters to Corner 4;
Thence S 09° 47′ 00″ E, 28.85 meters to Corner 5;
Thence N 80° 13′ 00″ W, 66.53 meters to Corner 1; the point of beginning.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, May 25, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 12th day of April, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

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Saipan Tribune

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS

Employment Opportunity

The Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners (CBNE) seeks a

Fulltime Office Manager

Essential competencies
1. Billing
2. Budgeting
3. Communications
4. Organizational skills
5. Human resources
6. Computers: Data base management/Front page/publisher software

Qualifications
Bachelors Degree preferred, but not required, with 3 or more years of managerial experience. Salary range 30,000 to 35,000 yr.
Nursing experience preferred, but not required.

Fulltime Office Clerk

Essential competencies
1. filing
2. answering phones
3. accepting incoming mail
4. Organizational skills
5. Good communication skills
6. Computers: data entry

Qualifications
High school Graduate, some college preferred but not required, with 3 or more years of experience. Salary range 13,000 to 15,000 yr
Nursing experience preferred, but not required.

Closing Date: April 25, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.
A detailed copy describing the individual position is available by request through our email below.

Interested applicants please submit your resume and a cover letter to:
CBNE Board
Email: cbne.resumes@gmail.com

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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

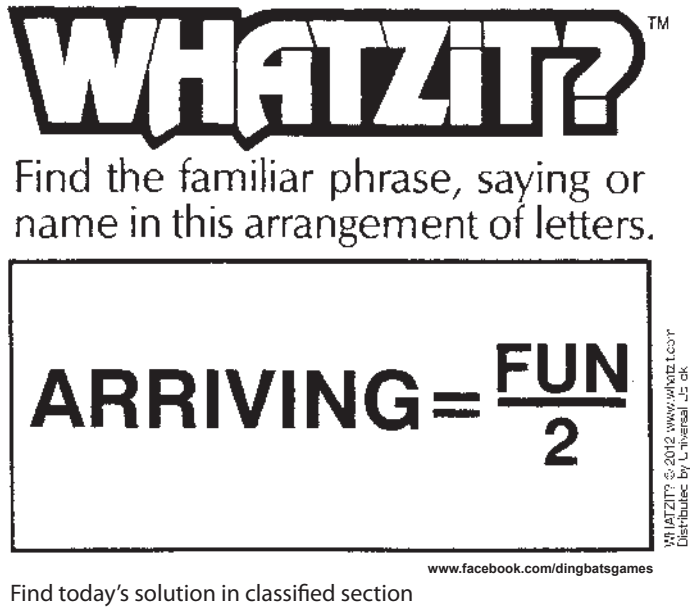
Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.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White Sox's Humber tosses perfect game

SEATTLE (AP)—Phil Humber pitched the 21st perfect game in Major League history, steering Chicago to victory over Seattle.

It was the third perfect game —in which a single pitcher goes the complete game without allowing any runners on base— in White Sox history, following Mark Buehrle in 2009 and Charles Robertson in 1922.

With his Chicago teammates lined up on the top step of the dugout urging him on, Humber fell behind 3-0 in the count to Michael Saunders leading off the ninth. But he still managed to strike him out. John Jaso then flied out before Brendan Ryan struck out to end the game.

Humber fell to his knees when it was over, and his teammates rushed to the mound to congratulate him.

"I don't know that I dominated them," Humber said. "Obviously the ball was hit at people. I'm thankful for that. It was a well-pitched game. Definitely something I'll never forget."

The right-hander struck out nine and threw just 96 pitches in his first career complete game. He went to a three-ball count only three times.

It was quite a contrast to his first start of the season, when he went 5 1-3 innings and threw 115 pitches in a no-decision against Baltimore on Monday.

He was 9-9 with a 3.75 ERA in 163 innings last season, his first full season in the majors as a starter.

It was the first no-hitter of the season. There were three last season: Francisco Liriano of Minnesota, Justin Verlander of Detroit, and Ervin Santana of the Los Angeles Angels.

It was the third no-hitter thrown against Seattle. Mark Langston and Mike Witt of California combined on one in 1990, and Dwight Gooden of the New York Yankees threw one in 1996.

Humber was drafted No. 3 overall by the New York Mets in 2004. He reached the majors in 2006 but his career was sidetracked by the elbow injury.

AP

Chicago White Sox starting pitcher Phil Humber throws against the Seattle Mariners in the second inning in a baseball game Saturday, April 21, 2012, in Seattle.

Tigers 3, Rangers 2
Rangers 10, Tigers 4

In Detroit, the Detroit Tigers won the second game of a double-header against Texas 3-2 on Saturday to end the Rangers winning streak at eight games in a clash of American League divisional leaders.

Texas routed the Tigers 10-4 in the first game but the home side took the second of a double-header caused by the previous night's game being rained out.

In the night game, Detroit pitcher Justin Verlander (2-1) pitched six innings without allowing an earned run.

The Rangers scored to make it a one-run game entering the ninth inning, in which Tigers closer Jose Valverde walked two batters but struck out Josh Hamilton to end it.

Neftali Feliz (1-1) took the loss.

Josh Hamilton hit a three-run homer during Texas' eight-run first inning, and Mike Napoli went deep for a fifth straight game to lead the Rangers over the Detroit Tigers.

Following the first game of a doubleheader, Texas has won eight straight games.

The Rangers routed Detroit 10-3 on Thursday in the first game of a four-game set. After a rainout on Friday, they picked up where they'd left off.

Yankees 15, Red Sox 9

In Boston, New York erased a nine-run deficit by posting consecutive seven-run innings, stunning arch rival Boston.

Nick Swisher hit a grand slam and then added a two-run double to power the Yankees to the unlikeliest of victories, a day after having hit five homers to spoil the Red Sox celebrations for the 100th anniversary of Fenway Park.

Boston chased New York starter Freddy Garcia after 1 2-3 innings and opened a 9-0 lead after five. But Mark Teixeira homered twice, the second a three-run shot in the seven-run seventh that cut the deficit to 9-8.

Indians 5, Athletics 1

In Oakland, Jason Kipnis drove in three runs and scored twice, Jeanmar Gomez pitched into the sixth inning for his first win of the season and the Cleveland Indians extended their best road trip in more than 20 years with a 5-1 victory over the Oakland Athletics on Saturday night.

Jason Donald had two hits and also scored twice while Travis Hafner and Jack Hannahan added two hits apiece for the surging Indians. Cleveland is assured it will win its first three series on the road for the first time since 1988. Cleveland also improved to 7-1 on its current nine-game swing.

Rays 4, Twins 1

In St. Petersburg, Florida, James Shields pitched scoreless into the ninth inning, guiding Tampa Bay to victory over Minnesota.

Shields (3-0) allowed one run over eight-plus innings to win his third consecutive start.

B.J. Upton had a key two-out two-run single off Carl Pavano (1-2) that gave the Rays a 3-0 lead in the sixth. Another run scored on the play when center fielder Denard Span made a throwing error trying to get the runner at third.

Blue Jays 9, Royals 5

In Kansas City, Missouri, Colby Rasmus hit two home runs to help Toronto defeat Kansas City, handing the Royals their ninth straight loss.

Blue Jays 21-year-old starter Drew Hutchison, who hadn't even pitched at the highest level of the minor leagues, won on his major league debut, allowing eight hits in 5-1/3 innings.

The Royals losing skid is their longest since 2009.

Angels 6, Orioles 3

In Anaheim, Jered Weaver pitched his first complete game of the season, Bobby Abreu highlighted a five-run fifth inning with a tiebreaking two-run single and the Los Angeles Angels beat the Baltimore Orioles 6-3 on Saturday night.

Weaver (3-0) allowed five hits, struck out five and walked none while going the distance for the ninth time in 181 career starts on 114 pitches. Since the beginning of the 2010 season, the All-Star right-hander is 12-0 with a 1.84 ERA in 15 starts before May 1. The last time he lost a game in April was his second start of 2009.

Jake Arrieta (1-1) gave up five runs and six hits in 4 1-3 innings.

Mets 5, Giants 4

In New York, Ruben Tejada scored the winning run on a throwing error by catcher Buster Posey as the New York Mets beat the San Francisco Giants 5-4 in the National League on Saturday after blowing a three-run lead moments earlier in a crazy ninth inning.

Mike Pelfrey tossed eight terrific innings, outpitching Ryan Vogelsong and helping New York build a 4-1 lead. Emmanuel Burriss hit an RBI single for San Francisco in the ninth, but the Mets appeared to be headed to a fairly simple victory when Brandon Belt hit a high popup to shallow center with two down. It dropped behind rookie fielder Kirk Nieuwenhuis and the Giants tied the score.

Nationals 3, Marlins 2, 10 innings

In Washington, Ian Desmond hit a home run and had the game-winning sacrifice fly in the 10th inning as Washington continued its best start since moving from Montreal in 2005.

Wilson Ramos singled to lead off the 10th inning, took third on a throwing error and scored on Desmond's fly as the Nationals improved to 12-4.

Florida's Logan Morrison hit a two-run homer off Brad Lidge in the top of the ninth inning to tie the game at 2. The homer kept Nationals starter Stephen Strasburg from his third win of the season. Strasburg allowed four hits, walked one and struck out six over six scoreless innings.

Cubs 6, Reds 1

In Chicago, Paul Maholm pitched six solid innings to earn his first win in nine months as Chicago beat Cincinnati to stop a six-game slide.

Maholm (1-2) allowed one run and four hits to snap a personal six-game losing streak. The left-hander struck out five in his first victory since July 10 for Pittsburgh against the Cubs.

Darwin Barney and Steve Clevenger each had three hits for the Cubs, who grabbed control with a four-run second inning. Starlin Castro had a double and a triple.

The Reds have lost six of nine. Mike Leake (0-2) took the loss.

Brewers 9, Rockies 4

In Milwaukee, the Colorado Rockies young starter Drew Pomeranz was cruising through four innings, not allowing a baserunner.

Then it all fell apart - fast.

Pomeranz gave up two runs in the fifth inning and the Milwaukee Brewers beat the Rockies 9-4 on Saturday night.

"I saw a guy with great stuff the first four innings and then he just lost control," said Rockies shortstop Troy Tulowtitzki. "From there he never found it. But those first four innings I think he needs to build off that and look at the positive."

Padres 5, Phillies 1

In San Diego, Roy Halladay walked three straight batters for the first time in his career. The Philadelphia Phillies scored only one run.

It all added up to a 5-1 loss to Cory Luebke and the San Diego Padres on Saturday night, snapping the Phillies' 13-game winning streak at Petco Park.

Luebke (2-1) held the Phillies to two hits in eight innings, struck out five and walked two.

The Padres hadn't beaten the Phillies in their downtown ballpark since Aug. 16, 2008. The Phillies' 13-game winning streak at Petco had been the longest active for any visiting club at any particular ballpark.

Dodgers 5, Astros 1

In Houston, the Astros Kyle Weiland is getting better with every start, but he hasn't been able to eliminate crucial mistakes.

On Saturday night those mistakes cost the right-hander the game.

Matt Kemp set a franchise record for home runs through 15 games with his ninth of the season to back up a solid outing by Clayton Kershaw and the Los Angeles Dodgers got a 5-1 win over the Astros on Saturday night.

Kemp's two-run shot to center field in the sixth inning off Weiland (0-3) scored Dee Gordon, extending the lead to 3-0 and giving him a home run in three straight games.

Braves 3, Diamondbacks 2

In Phoenix, after running up the offense for 10 games, the Atlanta Braves relied on Tommy Hanson to carry them to another win.

Hanson pitched seven strong innings, Dan Uggla homered and the streaking Braves beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 3-2.

Hanson allowed two runs on five hits for the Braves, who have won 10 of 11. Hanson (2-2) struck out seven, walked one and retired the last 13 batters he faced.

Nuggets beat Suns to clinch playoff berth

PHOENIX (AP)—Ty Lawson went 5 of 5 on 3-pointers and had 29 points and 10 assists to lead Denver to a 118-107 victory over the Phoenix Suns on Saturday that clinched a playoff berth for the Nuggets.

The Suns fell a half-game behind Utah for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference. The Jazz played at home against Orlando on Saturday night. Phoenix plays at Utah on Tuesday and holds the tiebreaker over the Jazz.

Steve Nash of the Suns had 13 assists, nine in the first quarter, and passed Oscar Robertson into fifth place on the NBA's career list. The Suns lost Channing Frye to a shoulder injury in the second quarter.

Shannon Brown scored 28 points for Phoenix, including a career-best 6 3s on 12 attempts.

The Nuggets beat the Suns for the sixth straight time, three this season.

Denver pulled within a half-game of Dallas for the No. 6 spot in the West. The Mavericks, who hold the tiebreaker over Denver, played at Chicago on Saturday night.

Arron Afflalo scored 19 points and Kenneth Faried had 16 for the Nuggets, who had six players finish in double figures, shot 55 percent from the field and had a 26-2 advantage on fastbreak points.

Marcin Gortat had 18 points and 11 rebounds for Phoenix.

AP

Denver Nuggets' JaVale McGhee (34) and Phoenix Suns' Jared Dudley battle for the rebound during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, April 21, 2012, in Phoenix. The Nuggets won, 118-107.

Wizards 86, Heat 84

In Miami, Dwyane Wade left the Miami Heat arena Saturday night with his swollen finger in a splint as the Heat lost 86-84 to the woeful Washington Wizards.

A doctor reset Wade's finger, and X-rays were negative.

The Heat fell two games behind the Chicago Bulls in the loss column in the race for the best record in the Eastern Conference, with only three games remaining.

Cartier Martin scored 22 points for Washington. Wall had 13 points, 13 assists, six rebounds and four steals, and Kevin Seraphin scored 17 points for the Wizards, who outscored Miami 22-3 on fastbreak points.

The Wizards have only 17 victories, but they have won five of their past seven games, beating both Chicago and Miami down the stretch.

Jazz 117, Magic 107 OT

In Salt Lake City, Devin Harris scored 21 points and had a key block that forced overtime to help the Utah Jazz defeat the Orlando Magic 117-107 and keep their lock on the final Western Conference playoff spot.

The Magic (36-27) dropped their second straight and first since All-Star center Dwight Howard had back surgery that will keep him out until next season.

Jameer Nelson led Orlando with 23 points, including three 3-pointers, but had his shot blocked at the end of regulation.

The Jazz trailed by 14 in the first half, by 12 in the third and by six midway through the fourth before rallying.

Al Jefferson's jumper tied it at 101 before Harris' big block.

The Jazz (34-30) moved ahead of Phoenix (33-31) for the eighth and final spot after the Suns lost to Denver earlier. But Utah and Phoenix play Tuesday in Salt Lake City, and the Suns hold the tiebreaker

Grizzlies 93, Trail Blazers 89

In Memphis, Rudy Gay scored 21 points and had a key block in the final seconds as the Memphis Grizzlies won their fourth straight, 93-89 over the Portland Trail Blazers on Saturday night.

Gay, who was 9 of 16 from the field, blocked Wesley Matthews' 3-point attempt with about 5 seconds left to seal the win and send the short-handed Trail Blazers to their fifth straight loss.

The win kept Memphis' hopes alive to try to reach the fourth seed in the Western Conference. The Grizzlies moved within a half-game of the idle Los Angeles Clippers, who hold the fourth spot.

Rockets 99, Warriors 96

In Houston, Courtney Lee scored 20 points, Goran Dragic added 18 points and seven assists and the Houston Rockets snapped a six-game losing streak with a 99-96 win over the Golden State Warriors on Saturday night.

Luis Scola had 13 points and Chase Budinger added 11 for the Rockets, who came into the game in the 10th spot in the Western Conference, one game behind Utah and Phoenix.

Houston went 10 for 26 from 3-point range to snap a four-game home losing streak and beat the Warriors for the 14th time in the last 16 meetings.

Bulls 93, Mavericks 83

In Chicago, Luol Deng scored 22 points, Richard Hamilton added 19 and the Chicago Bulls held off a fourth-quarter rally to beat the Dallas Mavericks 93-83 on Saturday night.

The victory by the Bulls (48-16) gave them a 2 1-2 game lead over Miami for the top seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs. Chicago has two regular-season games left, against Indiana and Cleveland.

Bulls star guard Derrick Rose returned to the lineup after sitting out three games with a right foot/ankle injury and he had 11 points with eight assists in 32 minutes.

Sixers 109, Pacers 106

In Indianapolis, Elton Brand scored 20 points and Lou Williams added 19 to help the Philadelphia 76ers beat the Pacers 109-106 in overtime Saturday night, stopping Indiana's winning streak at seven games.

Jrue Holiday scored 17 points and Andre Iguodala added 16 for the 76ers, who inched closer to clinching a playoff berth. The 76ers left the game needing just a win or a loss by Milwaukee to clinch a spot.

David West had a season-high 32 points and grabbed 12 rebounds for Indiana. Tyler Hansbrough scored 17 points and Paul George added 16 for the Pacers.

Bucks 106, Nets 95

In Milwaukee, Brandon Jennings scored 30 points to lead the Milwaukee Bucks to a 106-95 victory over the New Jersey Nets on Saturday night that kept their slim playoff hopes alive.

Jennings, who hit three straight 3-pointers late in the game, was 9 of 18 from the field and finished with six rebounds, six assists and four steals.

Ersan Ilyasova added 17 points and 17 rebounds for the Bucks, who snapped a three-game losing streak and beat New Jersey for the 11th straight time.

Wade sidelined with dislocated index finger

MIAMI (AP)— Dwyane Wade dislocated his left index finger in the opening minutes of the Miami Heat's game Saturday against Washington, but he said he'll be ready for the start of the playoffs next weekend.

X-rays were negative. Wade's swollen finger was in a splint after Miami's 86-84 loss.

"Obviously it will be sore for a couple of day, but I'll be ready to go when the playoffs start, for sure," Wade said.

Coach Erik Spoelstra didn't rule out the possibility of Wade playing Sunday against Houston, although that's unlikely.

"We'll see," Spoelstra said. "We'll have to evaluate it each day and see how he responds."

With three regular-season games remaining, the Heat are virtually certain to finish second to Chicago in the Eastern Conference. The Bulls beat Dallas on Saturday, and Miami trails them by two games in the loss column.

"Second place is not a bad place to be," Wade said. "We'll go into the playoffs and take it game by game and series by series, and see how we do."

Curtis holds Texas Open lead heading into finale

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Ben Curtis is still ahead at the Texas Open, leaving him just one round from his first PGA Tour victory since 2006 in what has been his most humbling year as a pro.

But a pack of mostly non-winners could make redemption difficult.

Curtis finally made his first stumbles at the Texas Open—once holding up a group playing six holes back when hacking the ball into the neighboring fairway was his only escape from under a tree—but his 1-over 73 was enough to stay atop the leaderboard at 9 under Saturday.

Matt Every was grateful to end a long day in the same position where he started—three strokes behind the former British Open champion. Every shot a 73 after waking early to finish his suspended second round, but it's his course-record 63 from Thursday that still has him in contention.

Mayakoba winner John Huh (67), Seung-Yui Noh (68) and Charlie Wi (71) were five strokes back at 4 under.

Aside from Huh, no one within five strokes of Curtis has won on the tour. Despite six years passing since his last victory, Curtis said he knows how to handle the final round: Simply worry about himself.

"In the past when I've played in these circumstances, that's what I did: I just focused on my game and if at the end of 18 holes it's good enough to win, great," Curtis said. "If not, I have to shake the guy's hand that won and move forward."

The Texas Open is only the fourth PGA Tour stop this year for Curtis, whose tournament invitations are no longer a sure thing after his status plummeted near the bottom rungs of the tour.

Curtis preserved his lead despite two double bogeys, including a wayward drive on the par-5 8th that left the 2003 British Open champion hitting twice from the adjacent fairway. Curtis said he and his caddie decided there was no other choice after his tee shot veered left and landed under a mesquite tree, surrounded by cactus and with no clear path back toward the hole.

"We were joking that we were on the second hole for 50 minutes today," Curtis said.

Curtis has some history on his side: Since 2000, eight third-round leaders at the Texas Open have held on to win.

Every called his round "scrappy" after he started the week with a course record at TPC San Antonio, where he showed up just two weeks removed from ditching his swing instructor and a new laid-back stance on practice - which sometimes means not practicing at all.

He had three bogeys Saturday but was saved by a couple birdies, including a 10-footer set up by a dead-on tee shot on the par-3 3rd.

"Overall, not bad," Every said. "I have a chance to win."

Matt Kuchar, the tournament's top-ranked player at No. 15, pulled back into contention with a 67 that was only marred by a bogey on the par-4 11th when the wind rolled his approach off the green to 21 feet on the fringe.

"I put myself in position," Kuchar said. "Maybe a long shot, but at least a chance."

Kuchar was tied for sixth at 3 under along with Greg Chalmers (69), Brian Gay (71), Cameron Tringale (76) and David Mathis (77).

Mathis' tumble was particularly swift. After starting the day two strokes off the lead, Mathis sank three birdies and walked to No. 15 in third place. But he bogeyed the hole and then made matters worse on the par-3 16th when his tee shot sailing into a crowded grandstand of ducking spectators.

Taisacan, Joyner nab hat-tricks in MISO boys soccer

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Marianas High School's John Taisacan and Saipan International School's Jehn Joyner both scored hat-tricks in last Friday's Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization boys soccer games at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Taisacan helped the Dolphins triumph over Northern Marianas Academy-Marianas Baptist Academy (0-3) in the first tiff, 4-2, while the Geckos pulled off a nice second half come back over the Kagman High School Ayuyus (1-3) in the second pairing, 4-2. With the win, MHS improved its record to 2-1, while after a delayed start SIS fared well in its season debut.

In other results, the defending champion Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays (3-0) defeated Marianas High School, 2-1, last Tuesday, while KHS routed NMA-MBA, 5-1, last Monday. Monday and Tuesday's games were played at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

In Friday's curtain raiser, NMA-MBA's Min Sung Kim and Everest Van Der Maas II netted a couple of early goals in the eight and 22nd minute of the opening half, but MHS's John Taisacan split the deficit just before the break in the 29th minute.

The Dolphins then roared ahead with three goals in the second half. Lin Zhi Peng tied it up for the Dolphins with a quick goal in the 37th minute of the closing stanza. Taisacan then fired home two more strikes for the hat-trick in the 47th and 61st minutes of the contest.

Then in Friday's second match, SIS also fell behind early, 0-2, as Kagman's Angelo Guevarra and Jack Tanapon found the back of the net in the 17th and 21st minutes of the first half. However, Joyner kept the Geckos in the game with a late goal with less than five minutes remaining in the first half.

KHS did a good job disrupting SIS' game plan in the first half, but the Geckos got wiser and took over in the second half. Taek Han Yoon's goal in the 44th minute of the match tied the count at 2-all, before Joyner provided the go-ahead point in the 53rd minute and then notched the hat-trick five minutes later via a penalty kick in the 58th minute of the final period.

Last Tuesday, Southern and MHS were knotted at intermission, 1-all, as the Rays' Hae Sung Lee and the Dolphins' John Taisacan hit the board for their respective clubs. Then Yong Joon Jeon played the hero for the Rays after scoring his lone goal in the clutch.

Last Monday, Kagman beat NMA-MBA, 5-1. The Ayuyus built a quick 3-0 lead off one goal each from Antonio Bornilla (8th minute), Anthony Foster (13th minute), and Jack Tanapon (14th minute). NMA-MBA managed a goal in the 22nd minute, but KHS would not be denied, as Bornilla and Tanapon each added a goal in the 36th and 47th minute, respectively.

The season continues today with SIS squaring off against NMA-MBA at 4pm at Hopwood.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Saipan International School's Jehn Joyner, right, battles Kagman High School's Frank Mettao for position as the ball flies their way during last Friday's MISO soccer game at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

BACK-TO-BACK

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drive, giving Blue Haus cushion, 72-69.

QQ had one timeout left, but did not use it in the ensuing play and instead Wowie Abuel pulled up for a triple and missed, too. Guiab grabbed the rebound and then threw an outlet pass to Esdrelon, who then drilled a baseline jumper, upping Blue Haus' lead to five, 74-69.

With still about a minute left, Blue Haus needed only a quick two to stay in the game, however Mangali gambled on a triple from the top key and lost. Blue Haus took the rebound anew and melted the clock before Guiab drove to the basket and made the insurance, less than 30 seconds remaining in the game.

Guiab, who had only two points after the first three quarters, ended up as Blue Haus' third best scorer in the finale with his eight markers. Camacho top-scored for the back-to-back champion with his 21 markers, while Esdrelon and Brendon Talania chipped in 18 and 12, respectively.

Camacho started the game with a baseline jumper and finished with seven in the opening canto. He went on to dominate the paint all throughout the game, getting three and-1 plays and causing troubles to QQ's frontliners, including Cruz, who was whistled with three fouls in the first period.

Mangali, who still finished with a game-high 23 points, was also saddled by fouls early when he committed two in the first period that ended with QQ on top by two, 17-15. The QQ gunner was forced to stay in the bench in the first half of the second period and Blue Haus capitalized on his absence, as the defending champion threatened to pull away, 35-24. Talania led the breakaway, making seven points in Blue Haus' 20-7 scoring in the first six minutes of the second canto. Blue Haus moved the ball well early in the second frame to open an 11-point advantage.

However, Blue Haus failed to keep the double-digit lead, as Mangali returned and he and Pagarao brought QQ back in the game after the first half, 35-40.

The second half was a neck-and-neck game and by the end of the third period, Blue Haus and QQ was back to square one, 57-all, after Dan Mateo made a buzzer-beater. Mateo also scored the first basket in the fourth to give QQ the lead.

There were several lead changes and deadlocks from thereon with the match tied last at 66-all, after Camacho made two free throws off Rolly Paraiso's fourth foul. Paraiso, who was instrumental in QQ's first two wins in the playoffs, was called for two quick fouls early in the fourth, forcing him to lay-low on defense, as his team had already lost Cruz due to five fouls.

With Paraiso a bit passive on defense, Camacho, Guiab, and Esdrelon managed to create offensive opportunities for Blue Haus in the fourth, while QQ fell apart in the last 1:52 of the match.

Meanwhile, in the battle for third place, the Sunrisers/Island Apparel cruised past Andhok's Grille, 85-69.

A 21-5 scoring in the first period was all the Sunrisers needed to beat Andhok's.

Battle for Third

Sunrisers/Island Apparel 85 – J. Quitugua 18, Basa 18, Mendez 13, Joyner 11, Sablan 9, Lizama 8, Deleon Guerrero 3, Peters 2, Aguon 1.

Andhok's Grille 69 – De Guzman 15, Castro 12, Wesley 12, Umali 11, Garcia 4, Llagas 4, Capalad 3.

Scoring by quarters: 21-5, 51-20, 68-43, 85-69.

Championship

Blue Haus 76 – Camacho 21, Esdrelon 18, Talania 12, Guiab 8, Sharry 4, Aquino 4, Tumaquip 4, Itaas 2.

QQ Rent A Car 69 – Mangali 23, Pagarao 14, Paraiso 11, Abuel 10, Mateo 4, Cruz 2, Montes 1.

Scoring by quarters: 15-17, 40-35, 57-57, 76-69.

NUIQUE

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at 2:19 into the first round.

Toves wrapped his legs around Jesse's waist and hemmed him up in a head lock after the first exchange, but Jesse remained on his feet and used some body punches to eventually get his head free. Jesse then took it to the ground and gambled for the mount as soon as they hit the mat. The effort paid off and he quickly locked up the arm-bar from the dominant position. Toves showed some good skills in the skirmish, but Jesse remained cool.

Lassiter tabulated a nice TKO victory over Guam's Pete "Big Mac" Miyasaki (1-1) at 2:04 into the first round of their heavyweight main event bout.

Lassiter led out with a takedown, but ended up on the bottom. He remained calm, however, and managed to muscle Miyasaki off him in a bench press-type motion and popped into a mount position. Lassiter thought about going for a Kimura from the top, but ended finishing him off with some powerful ground and pound blows.

In other results, a number of visiting Guam competitors produced a good showing in ROP 12.

Spike 22's Ricky Camp (4-0) earned a swift victory over Marianas Elite's Vince Pua (4-1) at just 1:32 into the first round of their 150-lb appointment. Pua came out with a chip on his shoulder, but it was to no avail as Camp had his way with him from the start. Camp took him to the ground right away and worked into a full mount position. He dealt some heavy strikes before taking his back and locking in a rear-naked choke.

Countershot's Jon "The Heat" Delos Reyes was triumphant in his MMA debut with a victory over Trench Tech's Josh "Chaos" Duenas via doctor's stoppage after two rounds of their 135-lb duel.

They wailed away at each other from the start for what was an exciting opening round. Then Delos Reyes rung Duenas' bell right out of the gate in the second canto and followed it up in spurts, which bloodied Duenas up pretty good during the round. Duenas hung tough and made it to the bell, but the contest was declared over after doctors checked him during the break.

Countershot's Aaron Magbuhat (2-0-1) notched a swift win over Tinian's Pete Cepeda with a nasty arm-bar submission at just 1:14 seconds into the first round of their 150-lb bout.

Cepeda landed an early takedown, but Magbuhat had no trouble reversing it into an arm-bar from the bottom position. The match ended with a scary moment as Magbuhat had to roll out of the bottom position to lock in his submission hold, which ended up bending Cepeda's arm the wrong way. Magbuhat was able to leave the cage under his own power.

Renowned K-1 kickboxer Sonny Chargulaf of Countershot/K-1 Guahan, turned in another impressive showing when he handed Regino Mundo's (Tinian-Zeng Zung) his first defeat in five fights.

Chargualaf utilized the clinch very effectively and mixed in some heavy kicks in between breaks. The 145-lb bout went the distance, however Chargualaf clearly proved to be the more refined fighter and earned the unanimous decision. He was a humble winner and was well received by the crowd. After the fight, he shared his plans of continuing to mentor and coach his students in Guam.

At the conclusion of ROP 12, Trench Tech's man Cuki Alvarez thanked everyone who helped support the organization after it gym was tragically burned down in early February.

Alvarez, on behalf of the TT Family, expressed a sincere gratitude to Erick Van Der Maas and Marianas Business Plaza, Financial & Insurance Services Group, Judo Coach Casey Conner, VJ Radovich and the USNS Lumus, Roman Dela Cruz and Fokai International, Betty Miller and San Vicente Elementary School, John Aguon and Immigration Customs Enforcment, Kwek and Becky Lizama, Vyleene Palacios Norita, Jaime Martinez, Victor Sahangon, Ed Chargualaf, boxing coach Don Rawson, wrestling coach Joe Ocampo, Randy Taylor, Iron Horse Machine Shop, Marvin Eselita, Christopher Matias, Josh Castro, JR Cadua, LJ Castrfo, Shane Alvarez, JRMC Studios and the rest of the video production crew that made their TT Fire Rebuild music video, as well as everyone who bought their TT Rebuild & Resurrection fundraiser t-shirts.

CNMI

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leagues. He said the squad has been training for more than three months and he hopes everything they learn from him and the coaches on loan from Chelsea FC Soccer School (Hong Kong) will be helpful in their campaign in the U14 team. "We have a very young team and all of them are eager to learn so I hope they get to use the skills we teach them when they play in Beijing. We have some players, like Dakota and Kennedy, who had already played in off-island competitions, so they are expected to help their teammates settle down against tough teams," Sekiguchi said.

"We don't pressure this young team to win, but we expect them to learn new things after each game. This will be very helpful as they compete in more tournaments in the future," he added.

In Beijing, the CNMI strikers will be joined by players from DPR Korea, Chinese-Taipei, Mongolia, Hong Kong, Guam, Korea Republic, Macau, and Japan. The U14 event will run from April 23 to 30.

Meanwhile, a referee preparatory course kicked off one of the activities in the AFC U-14 Boys' Festival of Football for the East region last Friday with Yishan Wang representing the CNMI.

Wang Xin Low of the Chinese Football Association Technical Department welcomed the 17 participants in the five-day course.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	37	27	.578	–
x-New York	33	30	.524	3 1/2
Philadelphia	33	30	.524	3 1/2
Toronto	22	41	.349	14 1/2
New Jersey	22	42	.344	15

Southeast Division

y-Miami	45	18	.714	–
x-Atlanta	38	25	.603	7
x-Orlando	36	27	.571	9
Washington	17	46	.270	28
Charlotte	7	55	.113	37 1/2

Central Division

y-Chicago	48	16	.750	–
x-Indiana	41	23	.641	7
Milwaukee	30	33	.476	17 1/2
Detroit	23	40	.365	24 1/2
Cleveland	21	41	.339	26

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

y-San Antonio	46	16	.742	–
x-Memphis	39	25	.609	8
x-Dallas	36	29	.554	11 1/2
Houston	33	31	.516	14
New Orleans	20	43	.317	26 1/2

Northwest Division

y-Oklahoma City	46	17	.730	–
x-Denver	35	28	.556	11
Utah	34	30	.531	12 1/2
Portland	28	36	.438	18 1/2
Minnesota	26	38	.406	20 1/2

Pacific Division

x-L.A. Lakers	40	24	.625	–
x-L.A. Clippers	39	24	.619	1/2
Phoenix	33	31	.516	7
Golden State	22	41	.349	17 1/2
Sacramento	20	43	.317	19 1/2

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	9	6	.600	–
Toronto	8	6	.571	1/2
Baltimore	8	7	.533	1
Tampa Bay	8	7	.533	1
Boston	4	10	.286	4 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	10	5	.667	–
Cleveland	8	5	.615	1
Chicago	8	6	.571	1 1/2
Minnesota	5	10	.333	5
Kansas City	3	11	.214	6 1/2

West Division

Texas	12	3	.800	–
Oakland	7	9	.438	5 1/2
Seattle	7	9	.438	5 1/2
Los Angeles	6	9	.400	6

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	12	4	.750	–
Atlanta	10	5	.667	1 1/2
New York	8	6	.571	3
Miami	7	8	.467	4 1/2
Philadelphia	7	8	.467	4 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	10	5	.667	–
Milwaukee	7	8	.467	3
Pittsburgh	6	8	.429	3 1/2
Cincinnati	6	9	.400	4
Houston	5	10	.333	5
Chicago	4	11	.267	6

West Division

Los Angeles	12	3	.800	–
Colorado	7	7	.500	4 1/2
San Francisco	7	7	.500	4 1/2
Arizona	7	8	.467	5
San Diego	4	12	.250	8 1/2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weekend Sports

Swimmers, netters put on a show

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's record-breaking swims, Saipan Swim Club's high-point wins, and the CNMI tennis players impressive games in Week 2 of the 12th Annual PIC Tennis Championships made headlines last week.

Tsunami Saipan bets crushed seven age groups records with Miku Tammy posting three new marks in the girls 9 to 10 age group, Ryuto Yanai resetting three in the boys U8 and his oldest brother, Kaito, breaking one in the boys 11 to 12 division. Tammy's three records made last weekend were in the 200m freestyle (2:34.86), 100m backstroke (1:21.49), and 200m individual medley (2:53.17); Ryuto's came from the 200m freestyle (2:34.63), 100m freestyle (1:15.69), and 50m freestyle (33.04 seconds); and Kaito's lone record was in the 200m backstroke (2:39.48).

These seven records were posted during the two-day 2012 SSC International Invitational Meet held last weekend at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool where SSC swimmers also had impressive races, winning four age group contests.

The host club ruled both the girls and boys U8 division with Conatsu Kaga and Taiyo Akimaru besting their respective foes and Lennosuke Suzuki and Kento Akimaru winning the boys 9 to 10 and 11 to 12 categories, respectively.

Other age group top finishers were Tsunami Saipan's Ryuto Yanai (tied in boys U8), Takumi Sugie (boys 13 to 14), and Shigeki Tenorio and Kensuke Kimura (tied in over 15 age group) and Neveah Anderson of Guam's Manukai Athletics Club (girls 9 to 10), Danielle Atoigue (girls 11 to 12), and Taloani Atoigue (13 to 14).

In the PIC tennis, Week 2 of the annual competition saw down-to-the-wire finishes in the men's open singles and mixed open doubles. In the doubles, Thea Minor and Bobby Cruz survived the finale against Tim Quan and Mikayla Lopez, 1-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7-4), while in the singles, Todd Montgomery slipped past Cruz 7-5, 2-6, 6-3.

Other Week 2 champions were Dylan Ackerman and Carol Lee (mixed 3.0), Clayton Izuka and Alex Park (boys U12 doubles), Emily Jones and Alina Ishikawa (girls U15 doubles), Julia Ishikawa and Tania Tan (girls U12 doubles), Thea Minor (women's open), Darrel Roligat (men's 3.0), Chris Cajigan (men's 4.0), and Kinumi Taniguchi (women's 3.0).

Meanwhile, other on-going leagues/competitions on Saipan continued with baseball having the Little League and the Saipan Major League, NMIFA holding the youth, women's and men's leagues, and MISO playing fast-pitch softball and soccer games, and kicking off the outrigger canoe racing.

The Mahi Derby was also held last week with *My Lady Gora* besting 34 other boats with its 26-lb catch.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tim Quan, left, and Mikayla Lopez, exchange high fives after scoring a point against Bobby Cruz and Thea Minor during the mixed open doubles finals in the PIC tennis tournament last week.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
The Saipan Southern High School Lady Manta Rays cross the finish line just ahead of the Marianas High School Lady Dolphins during the 1,000 meter race held at Kilili Beach last week.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Swimmers get ready at the starting block during the SSC Invitational at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi last week.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tsunami Saipan's Miku Tammy does the butterfly leg of the 200m individual medley race during the SSC Invitational at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi last week.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Bobby Cruz goes for a baseline return during his and Thea Minor's mixed open doubles game against Tim Quan and Mikayla Lopez in the PIC tennis tournament last week.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tsunami Saipan's Ryuto Yanai stretches while waiting for the start of a race during the SSC Invitational at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi last week.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MP United and Paire strikers hustle for the ball during the second half of their game in the NMIFA U15 league at the Hopwood Junior High School Field last week.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Blue Haus' Badong Camacho, left, pulls up for a short jumper against QQ Rent A Car's Rolly Paraiso during the third quarter of their title game in the DLX/Miller Lite last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Back-to-back for Blue Haus

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Blue Haus showed poise in the closing minutes of the one-game finals in the 2nd Domino Lux International Fraternity Basketball Invitational Friendship/Miller Lite League to thwart QQ Rent A Car, 76-69, and win back-to-back championships last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court

Badong Camacho threw the early punches for Blue Haus, while another big man, Junar Guiab, delivered the killer blows in the end for the team's successful title defense. The fourth-ranked QQ Rent A Car fell short in its upset bid after having key players in early foul troubles and taking hurried shots in the homestretch.

Lerio Pagarao took one of those untimely attempts when he rushed to the basket against two Blue Haus defenders and faltered. Before Pagarao's miss, the two-time champion opened a four-point lead, 70-66, off Elmer Esdrelon's undergoal stab and Guiab's two free throws with less than three minute left in the game. However, QQ was back in the game quickly after Elgene Mangali's triple and it had a chance to grab the lead after forcing Blue Haus to a 24-second shot clock violation, 1:52 left in the match.

Guiab added two more charities, as he was fouled in the backcourt after Pagarao's failed

See BACK-TO-BACK on Page 26

CNMI youth strikers off to Beijing

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI U14 Team left Saipan for Beijing early this morning to compete in the AFC U-14 Boys Festival of Football.

The team has 22 players with Kiyoshi Sekiguchi coaching the Commonwealth strikers. Included on the team's roster are Emmanuel Aniana, Christopher Aninzo, Daniel and John Auther, Gideon Borja, Jordan Butcher, Louie Calayag, Carlson Cruzat, James Ermitanio, Joel Fruit, Joshua Galarion, Dakota Hall, Alan and William Hinson II, Kennedy Izuka, Won Jun Kim, John Masga, Julian Pellegrino, Watari Takima, Jeremi Tanghal, Ryu Tanzawa, and Moris Villanueva.

Sekiguchi conducted the team's final training last Thursday and coached in a scrimmage against several players from the men's and U15 and U18 youth

See CNMI on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A member of the CNMI U14 team kicks the ball during a scrimmage against men's and youth league players last Thursday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Nuique claims bantamweight crown

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

From left, newly crowned Trench Tech bantamweight champion Mark "The Dark" Nuique, Trench president Cuki Alvarez, and Joe Duenas of Zalaka pose after the bout in the Rites of Passage 12: Unstoppable last Friday at the Royal Taga Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Trench Tech Purebred's Mark "The Dark" Nuique won Trech Tech's bantamweight title after soundly defeating Zalaka's Joe Duenas in last Friday's Rites of Passage 12: Unstoppable held at the Royal Taga Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort.

Nuique stopped Duenas (4-1) at 1:40 into the first round with a rear naked choke submission, stretching the former's streak to eight.

In the title fight, Nuique shot for an early takedown and had no trouble wrangling up his opponent. The champion then delivered some big punches from the mount, which caused Duenas to turn over on his back. Nuique was happy to oblige and wasted no time finishing him off.

Meanwhile, Nuique's Trench Tech teammates Fasi "Quick Draw" Jesse (9-4) and Mylo "Bam Bam" Lassiter (5-1) rebounded from a pair of previous losses after posting separate wins last weekend.

Jesse looked in true form and finished off Lights Out Gym's Ryan "The Predator" Toves (4-4) with an arm-bar submission

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